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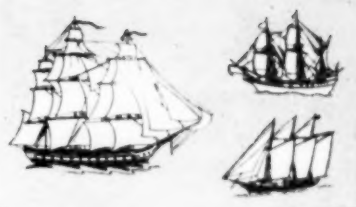
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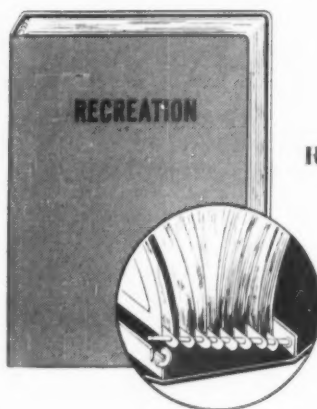
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Vol. XLVII Price 50 Cents No. 10

On the Cover

OUR NEW HOME. Friendly warmth, gracious dignity, and the spirit of recreation are keynotes of the new headquarters of your National Recreation Association at 8 West Eighth Street in New York. Look upon it as your own headquarters when you are in the city. Help in the creation of this spirit and carry it forth into your centers, your playgrounds, schools, churches, and homes—your town—where you have the opportunity to render a very special kind of service in the building of a sense of local, national, and world community and the good life.

Next Month

We begin the New Year with attention turned toward the swimming pool building boom across the country with the first in a series of three articles on the planning and construction of outdoor pools. The January issue will also carry two articles on synchronized swimming—one on *what it is* and the Niagara Falls program and one on *how-to-start* synchronized swimming. Among other articles: "Planning of a Show Wagon," "A Klondyke Party," "Community Recreation," "Music Comes to Main Street."

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Recreation*

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NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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JOSEPH PRENDERGAST, Executive Director



The following national advisory committee of the National Recreation Association has been set up to strengthen personnel work in the recreation field through the cooperation of the Association and recreation executives and leaders throughout the country, bringing about an alertness not only to local needs but to the needs of the recreation profession and to the best use of the Association's resources and services.



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VOLUNTEERS and DEMOCRACY

Dr. Eduard C. Lindeman

I IMAGINED that on a certain hour of a certain day all of the volunteers in America quit. Not another meeting. All stayed home. I tried to estimate how many there would be. At that time, which was some four or five years ago, the estimated number of volunteers was about twenty million. There were then, I assumed, about twenty million citizens who, day in and day out, gave of their time and energy without any recompense on behalf of the health, welfare, and educational institutions of their community. And then I allowed my imagination to wander: What would happen? What events would take place if all of the volunteers quit suddenly?

I don't know how your mind would work in this connection, but mine led me to the conclusion that within six months *we would become a dictatorship*. Within six months all of our free institutions would be gone. All of our activities would be now subsumed in some form of bureaucratic officialdom. Nothing would be left for the uncoerced individual to do. He would have no task to perform.

I really believe that we would lose our democracy. Maybe not in six months. My time schedule was perhaps a little accelerated. But certainly, within a definite period of time, without any opportunity for the free choice of individuals, citizenship, democracy, and freedom, I am sure, would disappear.

Never has it been more important that we assume such volunteer obligations. We happen to have reached one of those periods in history when the complexity of the problem far outruns the available leadership.

When this sort of situation prevails, the problems and complexities seem to outrun the resources and you get a kind of negativism, in which nearly all of the descriptive phrases used about our society are couched in negative terms. Arnold Toynbee calls this the Age of Trouble. The psychiatrists call it the Age of Anxiety. Four recent books were published in New York, all of which have the word "fear" in the title.

These are all negative terms, and obviously man

cannot live by negation. If I were asked to give a recipe to people who want somehow or another to find a way out of negation, I would say "volunteer." Find something to do in relation to human welfare.

We expect people in a free society to engage in this kind of activity because they really care about what happens to people. That means they are responsible citizens. That is what the word "responsible" means. It means "capable of responding to need."

In a society where there were not a preponderant number of citizens who really cared about what really happened to people, there would be no sense in freedom. There would be no demand for freedom at all.

The second reason we expect people to volunteer to participate as citizens in the work of human welfare is because we want them to demonstrate their belief in the principles of voluntarism. I don't believe you can have a free society unless you have a large number of activities which are uncoerced and function outside of bureaucratic control.

It was the French philosopher de Tocqueville who stated that the health of a democratic society may be measured in terms of the quality of functions performed by private association. Not the quantity. The mass quantity problems are not going to be solved by private association. But the quality is measured by what is done by the uncoerced free people.

The third reason we ask for volunteers on a wider scale is that we must find some way of bringing about a coalescence between the two great forces; namely, democracy on the one hand, and science on the other. How to do this, it seems to me, is the major task of democratic peoples.

If then, the volunteers were to disappear from American society, if men were to cease, either from necessity or from choice, to exercise their right to have active roles in the life of their community, then only the shell of democracy would remain. When men have surrendered the right to give of themselves, their money, and their time, generously and voluntarily, to the causes which are dear to them, the heart of a free society has ceased to beat.

The late DR. EDUARD C. LINDEMAN was an eminent sociologist of Columbia University, well known for his writings and lectures. This is a condensation of one of his essays.

Things You Should Know . .

► **THE FIRST IN A NEW SERIES OF THREE** ARTICLES on the planning and construction of outdoor swimming pools, by George D. Butler, will appear in the January 1955 issue of RECREATION. The other two articles will be published in our February and March issues. Mr. Butler, director of research for the National Recreation Association, is currently chairman of the Committee on Design for the Conference for National Cooperation in Aquatics. He is author of several well-known books in the recreation field, notable among them, *Introduction to Community Recreation*, McGraw-Hill, and *Recreation Areas—Their Design and Equipment*, A. S. Barnes.

► **WE REGRET THAT IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE** to obtain a copy of Dr. James W. Clarke's address at the St. Louis Congress banquet for publication in the magazine, as announced.

► **FEDERAL FUNDS ARE TO AID** small city and regional area planning, according to the *American City* of November. Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954 authorizes the appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Housing and Home Finance Agency from which grants will be made to state planning agencies for assistance to municipalities with populations under 25,000. Grants will also be made in metropolitan and regional areas to official state, metropolitan, or regional planning agencies empowered under state law to perform such planning. The authorized planning assistance includes surveys, land-use studies, urban renewal plans, technical services, and other preliminary work, but excludes plans for specific public works. A grant may not exceed fifty per cent of the estimated cost of the work.

► **SERVICE CLUB LEADERS ARE INVITED** to send to RECREATION magazine accounts of successful recreation program projects, ideas for parties and other activities with a unique or special slant. We need how-to-do information along these lines to pass on to other leaders

in service clubs and in other recreation organizations through the magazine.

► **THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20-26, 1955**, will be observed nationally as the 21st Annual Brotherhood Week, under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The free world looks to the U. S. as a true democracy, and observance of this week reminds us that it is an important part of our American responsibility to eliminate discrimination and prejudice by reason of race, creed, or national origin. Join with other community organizations to make this year's Brotherhood Week the best ever. Write to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 331 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, for suggestions and program materials.

► **HAS ANYONE INFORMATION** about playground equipment boxes that can be used on a playground which has no shelter building? If so, will you please send this to RECREATION magazine? Despite the great desirability of having playground shelters or using facilities in the school buildings, there is still a need—in a number of communities—for the use of temporary or undeveloped sites which, for a time at least, do not have any shelter buildings.

► **A FEW COLLECTED SETS** of the RECREATION magazine bibliographies which were distributed singly in the discussion sessions at the St. Louis Congress are still available upon request.

► **HIGHLIGHTS OF SEVEN DIFFERENT TALKS** on community recreation, delivered by Robert Horney, district representative of the National Recreation Association, at regional park and recreation meetings in Illinois under the sponsorship of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, will appear in the January 1955 issue of RECREATION.

► **TO HELP LOCAL RECREATION AGENCIES** overcome a lack of familiarity with TV techniques, formats, production requirements, and scope, the National

Recreation Association is cooperating in a special project with a number of other national agencies through the Committee on Educational Television of the National Social Welfare Assembly—of which the National Recreation Association is a member. The committee has prepared a guide of a two-day local institute to be organized and conducted cooperatively on the community level. A copy of the guide is available from the National Social Welfare Assembly, 345 East Forty-sixth Street, New York 17, New York, upon request.

► **TWO NEW IN-SERVICE TRAINING PUBLICATIONS**, which are companion pieces, are being published by the National Recreation Association about the first of January. Prepared under the supervision of the In-service Training Committee, of the NRA National Advisory Committee on Recruitment, Training and Placement of Recreation Personnel, they are: *Selection and Training of Playground Leaders*, prepared by Ray Forsberg, Waterloo, Iowa; and *In-service Education for Community Center Personnel*, prepared by Don Dyer, Milwaukee.

► **NEWLY AFFILIATED** with the National Recreation Association are: West Virginia State Recreation Society, Texas Recreation Society, Wisconsin Recreation Association, and Association of Southeastern State Park Directors.

► **THE NRA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY** for 1955 goes to press in January. It will list close to 3,600 active associate and affiliate members of the National Recreation Association as of January 1, 1955. New applications should be in not later than December 31. Directory for 1954—the largest one published to date—listed 2,940 members.

► **SCHEDULES OF NRA LEADERSHIP TRAINING SPECIALISTS** (see inside back cover) are, with few exceptions, filled until the first of April. Requests for service in April, May, and later should be addressed immediately to C. E. Reed, Field Department, National Recreation Association, 3 West Eighth Street, New York 11.

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Letters

Hospital Recreation

Sirs:

Dr. Ball's wise and timely article on hospital recreation (*RECREATION*, September 1954) was published just as our third group of recreation workers started a year's internship at our tiny psychiatric hospital. Since their initial orientation had been concluded only a few days previously, it was interesting to compare Dr. Ball's philosophy with what we had told our young trainees, and heartening to find that our brief experience in the field agreed with many of the generalizations drawn by Dr. Ball from her extensive knowledge.

With our own workers, for example, we made the point that recreation goals are identical wherever the program may be conducted; that patients are always people. We insisted that the pre-eminent goal was *fun*, and we found ourselves accenting a purpose which Dr. Ball implies, but never makes quite explicit. We asked for realism, reminding our workers that recreation programs for a nursery and a bankers' club are naturally different, and that there was little chance of our patients' enjoying either hopscotch or the pole vault. We told them their recreation projects were not therapy and that we were sure each patient would welcome a chance to enjoy himself spontaneously with no concern as to what clinical significance would be read into his actions.

We cautioned our trainees against stereotyping, pointing out that there is no formula for enthusiasm . . . We declared that irritability, withdrawal, and melancholy are symptoms rather than purposefully offensive character traits and that a patient is no more to be blamed for them than for a fractured leg. We warned our workers that their ingenuity and skill would be repeatedly challenged in the search for some human bond of companionship to help the patient out of his loneliness and despair.

We compared the recreation worker's mission to that of the superbly accomplished hostess who makes every guest feel the party is being held in his honor, who unobtrusively provides the necessary amount of initiative to keep everyone interested and happy, who respects and indulges each difference in taste and opinion, and who, while acutely conscious of the welfare of every guest, manages to have a bang-up time herself.

Neither the skills nor the knowledge necessary for professional recognition

in the field of hospital recreation are beyond human attainment. Yet these are meaningless without the attitudes Dr. Ball so rightly stresses. Is it not the real problem of the school to promote maturity in its graduates? Is not our proper goal to help the graduate to be friendly, generous, outgoing, tolerant, happy, slow to take offense, eager to forgive?

PAUL HAUN, M.D., *Clinical Director, The Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.*

Proof of Readership

Sirs:

We have delayed thanking you for listing our manual on *Boys' Club Building Planning and Construction* in *RECREATION* Magazine because we thought you would be interested in knowing the number of requests received for the manual. To date, over three hundred individuals and libraries have written to us requesting this material.

HOWARD M. WILLIAMS, *Director of Building Service, Boys' Clubs of America, New York.*

Recreation and the Schools

Sirs:

I am writing with reference to recreation in the schools. As the years go by, I become more and more concerned with this problem.

I have had the opportunity of going through the recreational system in Seattle, as well as various states, and I realize there is a pro and con on this very important problem of just what we should do and where we should start with our recreation program. The school authorities would like to see it conducted through the schools . . .

In reading the editorial written by Dr. Partridge, in the school issue of *RECREATION* [September, 1954], I think he has pointed out very well what the schools can do for recreation. I also agree with his heading, "Recreation, A Community Project"; and as such, I believe it should be run by the government of a community.

In using school buildings for recreation there is always the problem of divided responsibility between the school authorities and the recreation people. In his article Dr. Partridge states that developing a good recreation program is, to a large extent, an educational process. In some degree he is right; but he has not gone far enough, for I feel that,

to have a good recreation program, there should be a selling program as much as an educational one. A good program includes health and welfare as well as other phases.

I feel that we could all get along very well if the schools would agree to handle their end of recreation, and the recreation department is allowed to function, under government control, as a separate department, such as the fire or the police department, which is given a free hand to cooperate with other civic organizations in developing a better community-wide recreation program for people of all ages. If recreation comes under the schools, it will definitely be stifled and smothered by the supervision of personnel untrained in recreation work.

I do not blame the schools for wanting to include recreation, but I do hold the schools teaching recreation responsible for not instructing our future leaders to stand on their own feet, and for not teaching these potential leaders the art of selling the commodity of recreation, which is so highly regarded in most of our communities today. I would like to warn all communities to lay a good foundation for recreation by putting it on its own and not placing the whole burden of a community program on the schools.

I think it would be very interesting if you could have a column in your magazine in which the various recreation directors could express their views on this matter. I, for one, went into recreation because it could be used on a community-wide basis, and it was up to me, as a director, to mold it into a package that would fit the needs of my community. It would be very difficult for me to work under a superintendent of schools, as I feel it would retard my usefulness to the entire community.

In closing, I would like to suggest that, as recreation directors, we should be very careful not to sell our recreation independence short. We should be willing to fight to keep it intact, even if we do not have all the facilities we would like to have today—there is always a tomorrow.

SELWYN ORCUTT, *Superintendent, Recreation and Parks, Fayetteville, North Carolina.*

● Any Comments?—Ed.

Selling Recreation

Sirs:

In planning for National Book Week, I found that the Dormont Library was too understaffed to do anything in the way of celebration for the week; so we are ballyhooing a big "Recreation Books Display," and in years to come will always be able to make this tie-in. *RECREATION* magazine, and Barnes and

Noble and other companies have sent covers for display, and the poster committee has produced three good posters.

In connection with public education for public recreation, I gave a talk at the local grammar school P.T.A. meeting, at which they decided to raise money for four playground leaders. The sentence that seemed to sell them on the idea was, "I feel like a principal who has to open school without any teachers." I pointed out how foolish it was to pay three dollars an hour for teachers and spend so much money on schools only to turn the children loose after school, or, at best, put them under one-dollar-an-hour "help." In my talk I stressed how much education and recreation have in common and how many recreation games stimulate learning. All this, plus the fact that I had received my degree in recreation administration from Teachers College, Columbia University, helped my talk produce a rather magical immediate response to my plea for money for playground leaders. I am sure the borough council will respond to the parents' enthusiasm.

BARTON HAIGH, *Director of Recreation, Borough of Dormont, Pittsburgh.*

Help with New Bathhouse

Sirs:

Not long ago, we were paid an unexpected visit by John Collier, district representative of the National Recreation Association; and together we spent the better part of one day observing the activities and facilities Marquette offers its citizens.

The city is seriously considering building a new bathhouse at one of our swimming areas, and Mr. Collier's numerous suggestions on cost, locker systems, what has turned out best in other cities, and his knowledge of buildings of this type have greatly enhanced our chances of going ahead with this project.

Tentative plans call for promoting a school for lifeguards and also bringing resource men to Marquette to conduct intensive two or three day workshop programs that will benefit the entire Upper Peninsula.

MORGAN GINGRASS, *Recreation Director, Marquette, Michigan.*

Help with Tax Levy

Sirs:

You will be interested to know that our \$250,000 recreation bond election and a ten cent permissive tax levy was carried May 25, 1954 by slightly more than a three-to-one majority. (3,226 for and 1,234 against—total vote 4,510.)

We do appreciate the interest and help of the National Recreation Associ-

ation. After a twenty-nine-year operation here I believe we are at last on a sound basis, and you can now see Durham become an outstanding city in its class for public recreation.

Thanks again for the help of the Association over a long period of years.

C. R. WOOD, *Director, Department of Public Recreation, Durham, North Carolina.*

Personnel Service


Sirs:

My object in writing to you is twofold: (1) I should like to apply for membership in the NRA, and (2) I wish to thank your splendid organization for certain services rendered. To

start with the latter, I am obliged to express my deep appreciation for the efficient and courteous service granted me by your personnel department in the course of gathering and sending references to prospective employers. One of your staff, Mrs. Mary Gubernat, deserves the highest commendation for her unflagging kindness, patience, and personal interest. It was unique in my experience to be treated so considerately, especially since all was gratis. I feel therefore that such an organization merits my support.

May I wish you many successful years in your new headquarters.

HOWARD PIERSON, *Brooklyn, New York.*



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Congress delegates from New Hampshire camped out in Forest Park. Donald Sinn of Concord, left, and Fred M. Merrill of Rochester share their coffee with Palmer B. Baumes, St. Louis parks and recreation commissioner.

A Busy Week in **ST. LOUIS**

REVIEW OF THE 36th NATIONAL RECREATION CONGRESS

A WEEK OF busy and unusually good meetings ended October first when fourteen hundred of America's professional recreation leaders and their laymen colleagues packed their bags and departed from the 36th National Recreation Congress in St. Louis. The big annual meeting was over. They had found that recreation has extended its horizons and grown in professional attitudes even during the one short year since the Philadelphia meeting. This was an observance of some substance, for they had been spending an informative and challenging five days conferring with representatives from forty-eight states, the District of Columbia and three foreign countries.

Seldom, if ever, has there been a more rewarding Congress, if the delegates' own enthusiastic letters which are pouring into the National Recreation Association are any criteria. They were taking home with them a renewal of purpose for a more sound and vigorous approach to their community recreation jobs. As a man from Texas said, "I received many new ideas and met many wonderful people. To me, the Congress was one of the most outstanding events I ever attended in my life. . ."

Another delegate sums it up, "There was a startling difference this year, and this difference was in people. There were many of the old, familiar faces, to

be sure; but never, in my experience, has there been so much enthusiasm about, and satisfaction in, being a recreationist.

"This change in people is of significance because social movements are reflections of people . . . Here, in a nutshell, is the distinguishing mark of the maturing of a profession. The Congress was good because alert practitioners are sensitive to a culture expecting much from recreation. That a man of the stature of C. D. Jackson can equate the survival of the free world with good recreation is a ringing challenge stimulating everyone in this field."

More specifically, an oldtimer from New Jersey writes: "The address at the banquet was one of the finest presentations I have ever heard. It was worth traveling one thousand miles to hear. The younger men and women present must have left the session with new hope and renewed spirit that will have a real impact upon the lives of thousands in the various communities represented at the meeting."

Leaders of all forms of recreation had converged from all parts of the country by all means of conveyance. The Jefferson Hotel never knew what hit it, but rose to the occasion staunchly. In addition to public park and recreation agencies—city, county, state and federal—local volunteer recreation serv-

ices, Veterans Administration, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, schools, colleges and universities, social agencies, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions were represented. Delegates spilled over into other hotels as a matter of course; but St. Louis really sat up and took notice when the New Hampshire delegation arrived with sleeping bags, tents, cooking utensils and set up housekeeping in a city park. They announced that they had come to get a lot of information on the practical side of camping; and during the week they held a no-host steak fry at their camp site.

It was agreed throughout the week that, although everyone was as busy as in other years, the whole experience seemed more pleasantly relaxed somehow. Well-attended sessions moved in a definite direction, and the purpose and aims behind proposals for the field were blocked in, in broad, bold strokes in relation to today's needs. Serious attention was paid to the "why" as well as the "how" of things.

Tips and Trends

As delegates milled about the hotel, they were discussing such subjects as master plans, evaluation—"quality" instead of quantity, job analyses, research, cooperation, better training and higher standards, closer working rela-

tionships between unions and management in recreation for business and industrial workers, playground equipment so designed that it encourages children to be creative and self-reliant, the planning of recreation for "fringe" areas, creative dramatics as a part of living, hospital recreation as a necessity, recreation as an integral part of a prison program. Although this last trend is yet young, and there is much to be done in the way of interpretation to the public, officials who were present cited the old Chinese proverb: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

General concern was expressed as to whether college curricula in recreation are adequately preparing students for leadership in the various types of rec-

reational fields, and this matter came up again and again in a variety of meetings, accompanied by constructive suggestions. Debate was hot and heavy among college educators and potential employers in the various special meetings on the subject.



The conferees' wives were an active group. Here they receive some souvenirs of the Congress. From left to right: Mrs. W. James Marshalsea, Hempstead, New York; Mrs. Bob Garrett, Amarillo, Texas; Mrs. Alfred Guarnieri, Hempstead, New York; Mrs. Earl Harris, La Habra, California; and chairman, Mrs. Frank Dunnagan, St. Louis.

recreation fields, and this matter came up again and again in a variety of meetings, accompanied by constructive suggestions. Debate was hot and heavy among college educators and potential employers in the various special meetings on the subject.

And among other things, of course, delegates were talking about today's youth. They learned that we must have more faith in our teen-agers, that only a very small per cent cause trouble. There were troublemakers in Grandpa's day, too; but today, those who behave themselves take a lot of undeserved blame. Recreation should be looked upon as a builder of character, and not as a means of fighting juvenile delin-

quency alone. Consideration was given to what can be done with and for tomorrow's citizens, rather than to existing program activities in some few isolated localities.

Delegates were reminded that the "latchkey children" of World War II have now reached their teens, armed with attitudes formed while Mom was working in a warplant and couldn't be home when they arrived from school; and that one of our biggest problems is to get the family back together again as a unit. They were concerned about the poor example so often set for teen-agers by adults, whom the young people are bound to copy. A panel of teen-agers from St. Louis, under the direction of Virgil L. Border of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, gave

board or commission members with them. Two discussion sessions especially planned for these representatives were chaired by Horace B. Garman, president, Playground and Recreation Board, Decatur, Illinois, and Mrs. Everett M. Findlay, past-president, Long Beach Recreation Commission, California. Panel members for each of these meetings were respectively: E. H. Herrod, chairman, Parks and Recreation Commission, North Little Rock, Arkansas; Julius Junge, president, Board of Park Commissioners, Davenport, Iowa; Glen E. Smith, chairman, Recreation Commission, South San Francisco Recreation, Park and Parkway District, California; with Marjorie M. Dickinson, executive secretary, Illinois Association of Park Districts, Springfield, as summarizer; and Mildred G. Johnson, member, Recreation Commission, Oakland, California; J. C. Kubacki, president, Board of Recreation, Reading, Pennsylvania; Richard G. Zellhoefer, chairman, Waterloo Recreation Commission, Iowa; with James A. Downey, Jr., president, Park and Recreation Board, Birmingham, Alabama, as summarizer.

Members of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association who also played an active part were Otto T. Mallory of Philadelphia, chairman of the board; Gaylord Donnelley, third vice-president; Henry W. Meers of Chicago; Mrs. Rollin H. Brown of Los Angeles; and Mrs. Paul Gallagher of Omaha, Nebraska. Arthur B. Shepley, Jr., St. Louis attorney, who is an NRA sponsor, was active throughout the week, as were other sponsors.

Among those arriving to deliver special addresses or otherwise take part in the big meeting were C. D. Jackson, vice-president of Time, Inc.; Soichi Saito, president, National Recreation Association of Japan; Genzaburo Shirayama, former Olympic swimmer and delegate from the National Recreation Association of Japan; Beulah Gundling, senior national AAU solo synchronized swimming champion. Notables from St. Louis included Mayor Raymond R. Tucker; Albert P. Greensfelder, chairman, St. Louis County Park Board; and Harland Bartholomew, city planner; and the inspiring banquet speaker, Dr. James W. Clarke. Also present were

Layman Participation

In addition to the general participation in all aspects of the Congress, the value of lay interest to any great movement was amply illustrated by the valuable contributions of representatives of citizens' groups. They chaired and took part in many meetings—large and small. More community recreation executives than ever before brought interested

representatives of the Special Services of the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force.

Wives of delegates again turned out in admirable force, and had their own affairs well in hand under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Frank Dunnagan of St. Louis. They were entertained at a garden luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. August Busch, Jr., at their farm home which at one time had been the residence of General Grant. Other than this they participated, as usual, in the social functions of the Congress, aided and abetted their husbands in all projects afoot, attended sessions and went shopping for souvenirs.

Congress Services

Exhibits of recreation supplies and equipment by commercial exhibitors were especially good this year. One delegate has written that they, alone, were worth his long trip. He had been able to order some necessary and very satisfactory materials.

New services, such as the Combined Book Exhibit of book publishers, "*The Scoreboard*"—a daily news sheet of Congress doings, the use of a public address system, and a special message center were well received. Delegates seemed to appreciate the opportunity of browsing among the representative collection of current recreation books and ordering them on the spot. The book display marked the opening of the National Recreation Association's new book service. (See RECREATION, September 1954, page 391.)

Bibliographies of RECREATION magazine articles and NRA publications on the subject under discussion were distributed in each section meeting, and all NRA publications were again on display in the consultation center.

Greetings

Greetings and good wishes were received from many sources, first among them being a message from President Eisenhower who said: "Your organization is serving a most useful function in American life by helping our people use their leisure to their own and to their fellow citizens' best advantage. In this worthy endeavor all of you have my very best wishes."

Among others came a letter from G.



Dorothea Lensch, Portland, Oregon, chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Programs and Activities, outlines future plans and projects of the committee for Ray Forsberg, Waterloo, Iowa, chairman of the Subcommittee on Arts and Crafts.

Mennen Williams, Governor of Michigan, which read, in part: "All of our citizens owe a great debt to your efforts in behalf of our people, assisting them to better utilize the increasing leisure which our technology has given us. In a day when so much of the nation's time is taken up with the pressing problems which world leadership has presented to us . . . The efforts of your organization have made life a good deal more interesting and fruitful."

Special Meetings

The special all-day conferences¹ took place on Monday as usual, regular Congress sessions beginning on Tuesday morning at 9:15. Other special meetings and conferences, breakfast, luncheon and dinner get-togethers throughout the week included the first meeting of the National Recreation Association's new National Advisory Council; the American Recreation Society annual luncheon and business meeting²; a dinner, at which Joseph Prendergast, executive director of the NRA, was host to the presidents of state recreation societies, for the purpose of discussing ways in which the Association can be of more help to the societies; the meeting of Federation of National Professional Organizations for Recreation, at which Dr. Garrett Eppley of Bloomington, Indiana, was elected president; the annual New England dinner; and a Southern District and a Georgia State breakfast. A gay reunion of those dele-

gates who traveled together on the special tour through Yellowstone en route to the Seattle congress covered a breakfast and movies of that trip and again illustrated fellowship within the ranks. In addition, one of the important developments of this congress was a series of meetings of the Association's special advisory committees, including those on: administration; international recreation; recruitment, training and placement; research; state; and defense related services. At this last, Dr. Sherwood Gates, chief of the Office of Community Services, Department of the Air Force, Washington, D. C., declared: "The Air Force is a married man's institution. There are only a few wild-blue-yonder boys left . . . These military families must be identified with the best of American life. Community recreation must help integrate military families into community leisure activities."

Bits from General Sessions

General sessions were held in the morning as well as in the evening this year. The first, in the ballroom on Monday evening, marked the official opening of the Congress and was chaired by Gaylord Donnelley, president of R. R. Donnelley and Sons of Chicago, and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association. First speaker of the evening was Soichi Saito, president of the National Recreation Association of Japan. "We live in a world community," said Mr. Saito, "and it is no exaggeration to say that through recreation we can really understand each

¹ See page 575.

² See page 586 for new ARS officers.

other despite differences in nationality, race, sex, or religion . . . Our recreation organization in Japan is young, and we need your cooperation . . . Japan needs recreation. We must brighten the lives of our people."

He was followed by C. D. Jackson, former special assistant to President Eisenhower and now vice-president of Time, Inc. Mr. Jackson held that the West can co-exist with Soviet Russia as long as there is a "spirit to win without war" and emphasized that through the intelligent development and practices of recreation, not just as fun but as an important part of a way of life, the necessary spirit can be achieved. "American leadership is not an American choice, but almost a contemporary law of nature," he said, ". . . and we are confronted with this problem in more difficulties than we have faced as a nation. . . . I believe that the concept inherent in this word recreation will have something to do with the development of that leadership." After the addresses were over, a musical revue, "Industry at Play," was presented by employees from the recreation units of local industries. Plans for the revue included a later showing for employees of the plants.

On Tuesday morning at 11:15, Joseph Prendergast and George Hjelte of Los Angeles, chairman of the National Advisory Council of the National Recreation Association, gave "state-of-the-nation" talks about the current national status of the recreation movement and specific projects of the Association. Said Mr. Prendergast: "There is a difference today between America's attitudes toward recreation and its attitudes toward many other social services. No one thinks it is a 'good' thing for a child to have a school to go to or for a community to have a fire department; these are essential community services. Recreation does not yet enjoy this status. Most citizens are pleased when they find playgrounds, but are not deeply shocked when they do not exist . . ." He emphasized that we in the recreation movement must be the enthusiasts insisting that the recreation we have today is not sufficient for our society and that much broader and more effective recreation must be developed. Mr. Hjelte told delegates that "recreation stands

on the threshold of tremendous development" and pointed out that the National Committee on Economic Development predicts an annual expenditure of more than thirty billion dollars for leisure-time services and commodities in the next twenty-five years.

The Wednesday morning general session was devoted to the NRA-sponsored Southern Regional Study of Recreation Leadership, under the chairmanship of Otto T. Mallery, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association. "The growth of the recreation profession has been phenomenal," said Dr. Doak S. Campbell, president of Florida State University and first speaker, "greatly exceeding the percentage of growth in the nation as a whole. From 1940 to 1952, the number of year-round, full-time community recreation workers increased four-fold." Dr. William J. McGlothlin, consultant for professional programs for the Southern Regional Education Board and second speaker on the program, reported the discovery of three broad and profound lacks: "The field of recreation lacks trained people; it lacks a sufficient number of graduates entering it to maintain the profession; and the schools, with few exceptions, lack enough students to justify adequate faculty. The solutions must grow out of the definition of the lacks. Present schools could be expanded substantially if warranted by student demand."

The Wednesday evening session was devoted to recreation planning in St. Louis, and was chaired by Harland Bartholomew, city planner. Mayor Raymond R. Tucker of that city stated that it is the duty of our federal, state, and local governments to assist individuals in their pursuit of happiness. "We in St. Louis look upon this as a function of an urban democratic government," he said. "I believe sound recreation program to be essential to both physical and mental health of a modern city." Mrs. Rollin Brown of Los Angeles, vice-president of the National Council of Parents and Teachers and member of the NRA Board of Directors, emphasized the fact that any municipal program must be conceived through master planning. "It must be nourished on the close coordination of all groups and agencies concerned with recreation," said Mrs. Brown. "The school systems,

private agencies, libraries, and similar agencies must share in the planning for municipal recreation." Other members of the evening panel were: Rhodell E. Owens, superintendent of parks, Peoria, Illinois; Mrs. Edward G. Brungard, director of public welfare, St. Louis; J. E. Auchly, vice-chairman, St. Louis County Park Board; and Luman F. Matthews, supervisor, St. Louis County.

At the Thursday morning session, also chaired by Mr. Mallery, Joseph Brown, associate professor, School of Architecture and instructor in boxing in the Department of Physical Education and Athletics, Princeton University, discussed the philosophy behind his "play community," and demonstrated models of play equipment which he had designed. (For an article about this, see page 576.) At this meeting a citation was awarded the National Recreation Association by the National Citizens Committee on Educational Television, with Raymond H. Witteoff, chairman of that organization and vice-president of the St. Louis Educational Television Committee, making the presentation. Mr. Mallery accepted in behalf of the Association.

Thursday evening was the occasion of the most gala meeting of the week—the annual banquet, at which guests mixed business and pleasure in the gayly gracious atmosphere of flowers, good food, good speeches, and fun. In keep-

Alfred Jensen of the NRA Personnel Service and Isabel C. Auld, ARC personnel assistant, Midwestern Area, discuss the need for more women recreation leaders.



ing with the banquet theme, "Aboard the S. S. Congress," the St. Louis Recreation Department had created favors which were cunning, miniature Mississippi showboats. While waiting to be served, guests were entertained by wandering magicians and minstrels. After dinner, the chorus of the Clayton, Missouri, chapter of SPEBSQSA sang several numbers as only barbershop quartet singers can. The more serious business of the evening started with Henry W. Meers of Chicago, board member of the National Recreation Association, acting as toastmaster, and culminated in a real treat with the stirring address given by the well-known Scotch Presbyterian minister of St. Louis, Dr. James W. Clarke. "The total man suffers when recreation is neglected," Dr. Clarke told his spellbound audience. "Your vocation is the most important because it is with the living. You can rescue those who are merely existing, those who are half-dead, and re-create them into the whole man each cannot be without you. Your ruling moods must be faith—faith in yourself and in your work—responsibility and enthusiasm." At the close of his remarks, the guests gave him a standing ovation.

The final general session, Friday morning, "How to Use the St. Louis Congress to Forward Our Recreation Programs," was chaired by Mrs. Paul Gallagher, member of the National Recreation Association board, and was ad-

dressed by Mrs. Everett M. Findlay, past-president, Long Beach Recreation Commission, California, and Beverly S. Sheffield, superintendent of recreation, Austin, Texas.

Discussion and Workshop Meetings

These were especially satisfactory and well attended; and the several which presented "live demonstrations" really packed 'em in! The session on "Well-Rounded Program," for instance, featured a demonstration of creative rhythms and rhythmic games for children, beautifully led by Helen Hartwig, teacher of physical education in an elementary school in University City, Missouri, and audience participation and song leading, led by Dr. Frederick Hall, chairman of the Department of Music, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Alabama. Two other sessions, on "Creative Dramatics," consisted entirely of excellent demonstrations of this activity, led by Grace Stanistreet, director of the Children's Theatre, Adelphi College, Garden City, New York. The children had never previously worked with Miss Stanistreet nor with each other. Each one of these meetings was enthusiastically received by a large and very attentive audience.

One delegate has written the National Recreation Association: "Such things as the demonstrations in creative dramas carried out by Miss Stanistreet, in creative rhythms by Mrs. Hartwig, and in audience participation by Dr. Hall were outstanding. I hope that it will be possible at future congresses to devote more time to this type of thing."

The panel of teen-agers at the meeting on recreation for that age group is another instance of the successful employment of this device, as were the usual social recreation and arts and crafts leadership training workshops conducted by the National Recreation Association specialists, Anne Livingston, Helen Dauncey, Mildred Scanlon and Frank Staples.

Evening workshops which included the participation of delegates were: "Recreation in Hospitals"; "Arts and Crafts"; "Social Recreation Training"; and "Television." A synchronized swimming demonstration was held at Washington University Pool, where

Beulah Gundling, senior national AAU solo synchronized swimming champion, demonstrated the fundamentals of this type of swimming as compared with regular swimming strokes and inspired delegates with the grace and precision of her exhibition. Other soloists included Mr. Shirayama, former Olympic swimmer of Japan, and several students of Washington University. Myron Hendricks, recreation director of Niagara Falls, New York, acted as master of ceremonies. (An article on synchronized swimming, by Mr. Hendricks, will be published in the January 1955 issue of RECREATION.)

The fifty-seven discussion sessions were scheduled during daytime hours with some very few exceptions. Among topics that were new this year were: "Recreation in Correctional Institutions"; "Land for Recreation"; "Zoos and Botanic Gardens"; "Urban Redevelopment"; "Operation of Indoor Recreation Centers"; "Conducting a Community Sports Clinic"; and a "New Executives Workshop" which took up administrative problems.

Fun

Let it never be said that a National Recreation Congress took place without fun, when *fun* is the business at hand! The whole Congress was fun; and, in particular, ask any of the folks who attended the social recreation training workshops, or any of the other meetings for that matter, or who stood around the piano singing until all hours of the nights, or who attended the social events of the week. The latter were started off with the usual welcome tea, held by the National Recreation Association on Monday afternoon. Square dancing, with a good orchestra and callers from many states, went on as long as the musicians would stay on Wednesday night. As a grand climax after the banquet on Thursday evening, ballroom dancing, again with a good orchestra, came into its own. The "mixers" really mixed, and everyone seemed to be having a hilariously good time. No strangers here!

In addition, the special tour for delegates took them to the Missouri Botanical Garden which contains the largest collection of plant life in the Western Hemisphere and to see the famous chimpanzee show at the Forest Park Zoo.



The delegates appreciated the opportunity to browse through the varied selections offered them at the combined book exhibit of the commercial publishers who are cooperating with the National Recreation Association in its new book service. Many placed orders before leaving.

Congress Capsules

From All-Day Conferences

Administrative Problems of Recreation and Park Executives

These meetings took a new form this year, and from all reports the change was a big success. The large group was divided into small discussion groups, thereby giving individuals in the smaller groups an opportunity to participate. Each smaller group had its own discussion leader and summarizer and discussed those subjects in which the greatest interest was shown. There was a sustained attendance at these meetings of about one hundred and seventy-five throughout the day.

Summaries of the discussions were reported to the assembled group at the end of the day. Some conclusions reached by one or more groups were that the thirty-to-fifty age group is most in need of more program planning; and that provision for recreation—especially facilities in local housing projects—still needs more emphasis from Federal Housing Authorities. There was again much discussion of whether the colleges engaged in training recreation leaders are turning out properly qualified people. Most departments participating in the discussions reported in-service training for their staffs with the latter paid while attending. There was agreement that more volunteers should be recruited and used by public recreation departments with more careful assignment of them to the right responsibilities. There was lively and extensive interest in recreation problems of fringe and new suburban areas.

Recreation for Business and Industrial Workers

Capacity audiences were present at these meetings of leading companies and representatives from labor unions. It was agreed by all that, for recreation in this field to be successful, sincere co-operation between management and trade unions is essential, and that activities should be planned for every employee regardless of any trade union affiliation. Delegates further heard that its success also depends upon cooperation with local community recreation agencies in the use of available community facilities; and that in each business or industry there are different groups of employees with differing activity needs: men—women employees, older—younger, athletic—non-athletic, city dweller—rural and suburban dweller. Questions on organization and administration, leadership, types of programs, noon-hour activities and activi-

ties for shift employees, and types of plant organization took up a great part of the time. A discussion of why graduate students fresh from universities with a degree in industrial recreation have, so far, failed in the field, brought forth the reasons that: they have not been taught, or know very little, about labor relations; they do not understand working people and they expect high salaries and rapid promotion.

Recreation in Correctional Institutions

Delegates from fourteen states represented such institutions as detention homes, reformatories, youth camps, and prisons—both minimum security and maximum types. It was agreed that the greatest need in this area is to interpret to the public the importance of recreation as a part of the total programs, and that it must be integrated to be effective. The public must understand that the purpose of recreation in these institutions is to assist in changing the attitude of the inmate, rather than to establish good will between staff and prisoners. Inmates must be helped to get along with each other so that they may carry over these lessons into society when they regain their freedom. The subject of university training for recreation jobs again came up, this time in relation to these institutions, and it was agreed that some additional and carefully supervised orientation given by someone familiar with the institution situation is necessary; and it was revealed that there is very little, if any, published material on this subject.

Recreation in Hospitals

In these meetings, bigger than ever this year, hospital recreation leaders were emphasized as important members of the hospital team . . . the therapeutic values of hospital recreation fully recognized. It was agreed that its aims are to assist the physician in the patient's recovery and to make life as meaningful and satisfying as possible for the patient. The recreation staff can make the hospital a more familiar place and help to dispel fears, provide for diversion, relieve anxiety, and make the patient more receptive to present and future medical treatment. It was pointed out that hospital recreation programs for children are a necessity and are conducted separately from other hospital programs. The program must be totally different, as must be the approach. It must be recognized that to children rec-

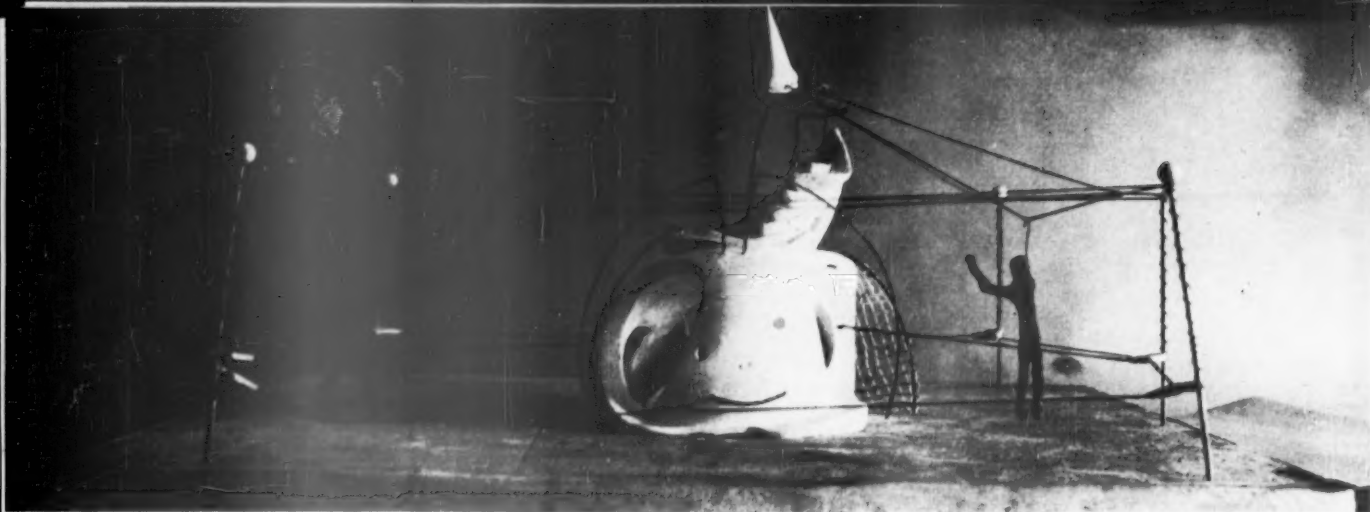
reation activity or play is a vital part of their growing process. It was agreed that recreation for general medical and surgical patients requires constant interpretation. There is a need for continuing study as to how recreation can most effectively take its place as a part of the medical treatment program. The greatest potential in hospital recreation is leadership, which should help in ironing out methodology and achieving a wholeness for a common objective.

Workshop for Supervisors

These meetings established a free and easy give-and-take between panel members and audience and at once got down to some of the basic fundamentals of supervision. Agreeing that "help on the job" is the prime reason for supervision, and that its core is the relationship between the supervisor and the individual worker, a discussion of staff development as an integral part of supervision and of how to improve the effectiveness of the supervisor followed. Some ways in which the supervisor can help recreation leaders are: (1) through staff meetings regularly scheduled, and publicizing of agenda before the meeting; (2) by encouraging professional reading and study; (3) by encouraging staff members to attend workshops and meetings. One of the important points brought out in relation to summer staff is payment for pre-summer orientation or training; only fifty per cent of the departments represented in the meeting are at present following this policy. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to be concerned about the working conditions of his staff and to see to it that they meet certain standards. A great deal of discussion was concerned with the process of evaluating the worker—how, when, and where.

Town-Country Recreation

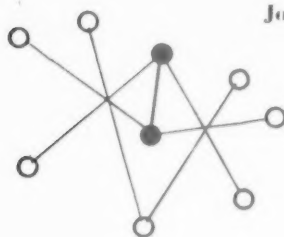
In discussing the training of leadership for this area of recreation, it was decided that social recreation training is the logical place to begin. The care and feeding of local leaders is a constant program of work for the county and state worker or community program director; success is measured by the ability to get people to do things for themselves. The problems of the programs in rural and small communities which were presented centered around creating an awareness of the need, interpreting specific needs, and stimulating interest. A discussion of finance involved facilities, paid personnel, transportation, enabling acts, and working closely with public officials. In considering program for farm folks, the need for more family recreation was stressed, and the part that TV and recreation laboratories might play in promoting it was discussed.



A 36th National Recreation Congress address dealing with the principles behind the designing of play equipment to "meet the needs of the child and give him the opportunity to be creative" was given by Mr. Brown.

ONE BODY + ONE MIND

Joseph Brown



PLAY IS not just a safe way of getting rid of the children for a certain time; it is not just a way of developing children physically; it is not just a way of developing better coordination; nor is it just a way of teaching children to entertain themselves. It is all of these things and more; and it cannot be defined as any single one of them any more than a man can be truly defined as a nose, or two legs, or a heart, or a brain.

Play is nature's way of preparing the child, or any young animal, for the

JOSEPH BROWN, an associate professor in the School of Architecture and instructor in boxing in the Department of Physical Education at Princeton University, came to the National Recreation Congress for one meeting and became so interested he stayed the entire week.

struggles of maturity. In its unspoiled state, play is a universal education system which allows a child to discover his natural rights and natural limitations. The child finds that these rights and limitations vary with the frame of reference, that individual and group interests are not necessarily antagonistic. The fundamental democracy of pure play will induce him to recognize that he is the same as other children as well as different from them. One idea for achieving this by means of physical play equipment would be to develop a piece which enables the child to play follow-the-leader and at the same time requires him to make personal decisions, thus teaching him that he can be an individual and still be closely related to the group. There is, however, a limit to how far we can use manufactured gimmicks in this respect.

Because "pure" play is an ideal, play leaders are necessary, but the best leader is one who interferes at the right time in the right way, though as seldom as possible. In too many cases leaders have

become to the child what, too often, the lawyer and the policeman have become to his father: a substitute for judgment and conscience. This is unfortunate, not only for the child, but for all of us.

Play is basically voluntary. Over-regulated activity, whether the over-regulation is verbal or physical, is not play. Control of children by means of posted rules and supervisors is, perhaps, a reflection of the world in which we live, but the role of the professional man, in recreation as in any other phase of education, is to shape as well as to reflect, to lead as well as to follow. It is the educator who must investigate every smell of smoke and help put out the fire—if there is one.

The extent to which we have become a verbalized, rather than an educated, culture becomes evident if we take into account the number of men and women who talk a better game than they play. While the medium of words is undeniably our most convenient educational medium, all problems cannot be solved by words and numbers, although it is

Many of Mr. Brown's basic ideas are incorporated in this model. Motion at any point is transmitted to all the others.

just as true that all problems will not be solved by mere physical manipulation of our environment or ourselves.

Stated simply, our task is to teach children to "add two and two—but combined with the right gestures." Since the "rightness" of the gestures will be determined by each situation, the basic

more important, that he discover that he is, in a sense, a dancer and a choreographer?

The responsibilities of this role would involve the arrangement of—and taking part in—situations composed of diverse factors such as trees, and streams, and curbstones, and other children. A tree has certain character, so does a stream, so does a curbstone, and so do other children—it gets complicated. Is it too complicated for a child? What about dwarfing his personality? We worry about that when he is dealing with crayon and paper, or clay: should we worry less because he is dealing with things and people?

The problem of vitalizing play in the highly industrialized and highly literalized mid-twentieth century is by no means a simple one-step affair. The reaffirmation of basic principles is only a beginning, a very important first step. Subsequent steps, taken in the constant light of these principles, would be a study of the physical equipment currently in use, the development of supplementary equipment when the need is indicated, and the development of new kinds of equipment. Let no one say, for instance, that the old, standard horizontal bars are no longer any good.

When we speak of "new" equipment we encounter a two-faced danger. The first is the tendency to accept something new merely because it is novel, whether or not it is based on an understanding of the job to be done; and the second is the tendency to reject a new, but real, contribution because it has never been done before.

The conflicts of and within a society are fundamentally the same from one age to another, but they are also superficially different from one year to the next, and the recognition of these "superficial" changes can be the difference between life and death or health and sickness. As an example: The increase in the number of automobiles has led to an increase in the number of accidents; the increased accident rate has increased the number of public signs reading "Careful, Children," or words to that effect; and the increase in the number of such signs has increased the number of children who feel that a sign relieves them of responsibility in a "street-automobile-sign-adult-I want to

go somewhere" situation. And these children grow up and drive cars in a "street-automobile-pedestrian-I want to go somewhere" situation.

Where shall we start? Shall we abolish automobiles? Or signs? Or shall we conclude that "some things are right and some things are wrong, but there's nothing we can do about it?" Thoughts of this nature must end in either moodiness or action, and choosing action I went to work on what I now call a play community.

This play community, the first in a series which I have designed, is a prototype. It is based primarily on the assumption that many apparently sound pieces of traditional equipment fail to do an adequate job because they lack the all-important factor of unpredictability. Unpredictability, within reasonable limits, gives physical activity the creative quality which is the very soul of play.

The play community consists of two main elements: a massive central element made of concrete and a two-level, web-like arrangement of plastic-covered cables that radiate from a support embedded in the central element to poles on the perimeter of the plot.

The conical cap to which the cables are attached is mounted on a ball-and-socket joint, so that the cap moves whenever the balanced tension is changed; that is, whenever a pull is exerted on any part of the web. A child trying to walk the lower strand while holding the two upper strands for balance must contend not only with the constant laws of gravity and inertia but also with the changes in tension caused by the actions of other children who may be practicing similar or different activities on other parts of the web. By the nature of the hookup, these tensions, which he cannot eliminate, are not violent enough to fling him off the apparatus, but they are real enough to draw him off balance unless he learns to extend and to flex, to give and take, at the right times.

A child hang-traveling on one of the radiating strands would, each time he swings from one hand to the other, add to the pulse of the entire mechanism, changing it but at the same time accepting the changes that would continually be created by the reasonable actions of other children on different parts of the



Mrs. Rollin Brown, NRA board member, observes models with author. Center, strips of spring steel move when pressure is applied anywhere. Others for climbing.

importance of individual judgment and mobility, mental and physical, is forced upon us. The child who can learn to change his mind without changing his principles is tomorrow's adult in every sense of the word, the citizen who understands that rights and responsibilities are interdependent.

How are we to do this? Some kind of leadership and rules are necessary. Published rules and articulate leaders are not *in* themselves destructive, but *by* themselves they are. Rules that grow out of the experiences of the children are quite a different matter from rules, regardless of their apparent good sense, that are imposed before there has been an experience. And this may be the crux of the matter. Does a child do his only, or his most important, creative thinking by scribbling on a paper without criticism? Or by squeezing some clay into good and bad shapes that his parents feel duty-bound to admire for fear of dwarfing his personality? Or might it be just as important, if not

apparatus. The result would be an ever-changing, always different, rhythm which would make a trip from one pole to another a different and new achievement each time, a tacit reminder that success is a process, not an end.

There are certain arrangements that are planned to lead to frustrations, but none is a blind alley. In one case, the upper cable, running from the central pole to the border pole, is directly above the lower strand, making it possible for a child to walk the lower strand while using the upper strand for support and balance. If, sometime later, the same child comes back and finds that this particular section of the apparatus is being used by another child, he can go to the opposite side and use what appears to be a similar arrangement of strands; but he will find after two steps that the strands diverge, and he is faced with the responsibility of making a choice: continuing to try to walk the lower strand without the benefit of the upper strand or leaving the lower strand and continuing to hang-travel on the upper.

The design of the massive element is such that it will suggest different things to different children, depending upon the conditioning of each child; and it will also suggest different things to the same child, depending upon the direc-

tion from which it is seen.

It may be played in and played upon. The top of the spiral slide can be reached in a few different ways, none of which is an obvious or traditional approach. For example, a child using the stair-like markings on the side of the element (with the rail-like poles on either side) would find it necessary to change his hold from one railing to the other at a certain point. Small children may play inside the element without fear of anything or anybody falling upon them. They may crawl under the bridge-like construction on the inside, in and out of the main holes, and they may look out of the smaller holes.

The spiral slide is a planned temporary disappointment in that it looks as if it offers a continuous trip from top to bottom. Actually, the child would stop sliding when only half-way down and he would be faced with the necessity to make another decision and act on it: He could either stand up and venture out toward the front of the main element, or onto the cable-web, or he could remain seated and push himself two or three times until he encountered the second incline.

This lower incline may be used as a slide in itself by less adventurous or less experienced children, who could climb

the rope net that is attached to the posterior side. A child approaching from the upper slide would be pushing himself along the joining section, so there would be no possibility of a collision as another child entered the slide from the net. The actions of each, at this point, would be necessarily slow and deliberate and an impasse would be improbable, if not impossible.

This apparatus is a play "community" because any child who uses it is forced by circumstances to recognize the vitality of his surroundings. Through experience he is taught to respect the complexity of every situation even though his personal aims may be simple. This respect will be neither unreasonable fear nor a thoughtless sense of security—just an acceptance of the fact that personal designs and social designs are interdependent.

The factor of unpredictability, the creative factor, places upon the child the responsibility—which is, at this time in life, the fun—of choosing, of emerging, of choosing again, ad infinitum, practice in the art of living, the rare art of accepting each accomplishment as a sign-post in a wonderful journey that never ends, a journey made on one vehicle—a mind and a body, one and inseparable.

National Recreation Association District Conference Schedule—1955

District	Location—Hotel	Dates	District Representative
California State and Pacific Southwest Recreation Conference	Casa Del Rey Hotel Santa Cruz, California	February 13-16	Rodney
Middle Atlantic (Including New York State)	The Inn Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania	March 16-19	Faust—Westgate
Southeast	Whitley Hotel Montgomery, Alabama	March 16-18	Van Fleet
Great Lakes	Pantland Grand Rapids, Michigan	March 22-25	Collier—Horney
Midwest	Fort Des Moines Hotel Des Moines, Iowa	March 23-25	Todd
Southwest	Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	March 23-26	Van Arsdale
Southern	Geo. Vanderbilt Hotel Asheville, North Carolina	April 12-14	Preece
Pacific Northwest	Boise Hotel Boise, Idaho	April 17-19	Shumard
New England	Woodstock Inn Woodstock, Vermont	May 10-13	Hainsworth



Industry puts on a big show; and company volunteers make it possible.

Boeing Gets Set for Christmas Party

A DAZZLING circus—complete with ringmaster, professional performers, acts such as those on the flying trapeze, trampoline, dancing bears, elephants, dogs, clowns and, of course, Santa Claus—climaxes the Christmas season at Boeing Airplane Company in Seattle. The youngsters love it and, judging from adult attendance, so do mom, pop, grandma and grandpa. Last year, with an audience of eighty-six thousand, forty-four per cent were adults.

However, adults can't horn in on everything! Every moppet in the place heads for home with the usual Christmas stocking loaded with candy, gum, nuts, and toys. More than forty-eight thousand stockings were distributed last year.

Company supervisors have been getting ready to stage this year's Christmas party since last August. The complexities of the annual event having mushroomed considerably since the first party three years ago, they'll start making their plans for 1955 just a few weeks after this one is over.

The first performance, held in Seattle's huge Civic Auditorium, attracted nearly thirty thousand persons. The auditorium wasn't quite big enough, however, and the last two parties have been transferred to the University of Washington Athletic Pavilion, where it will again be held, with attendance expected to top the 1953 figure. The party, incidentally, is a two-day extravaganza, split into four circus-type shows each day, each running about an hour. In the planning for this stupendous affair, a committee is formed to make the necessary decisions, a committee which is a cross section of the company's supervisory ranks. This year's group includes supervisors from engineering, controller's office, experimental, tool engineering, maintenance and transportation, public relations, personnel, timekeeping, factory manager's office, industrial relations, manufacturing, and advertising.

They have a world of things to attend to: hiring the hall; lining up circus acts; scheduling the filling of stockings. Then there are arrangements to be made for sound equipment and operation, spotlight operators, stage hands, costume rental, and Christmas trees, insurance, cleaning services, electricians, towel rental, the printing of well over one hundred thousand tickets, programs, decorations, traffic control, flowers for the dressing rooms, food service. They even arrange for a standby tow truck just in case somebody's car won't start.

Incidentally, top-ranking acts were just a bit difficult to book for the first party, the performers being not too enthu-

siastic over a lengthy trip for a "one-night stand." But word got around concerning the red-carpet treatment accorded them at the Seattle show, and a number of letters have been received from big-time acts saying they'd like nothing better than to perform before the Boeing people again.

They liked the idea of flowers in their dressing rooms, it seems, hot meals or snacks available at all times, and somebody on hand to take care of anything that might need to be done. And they liked the way their acts were received.

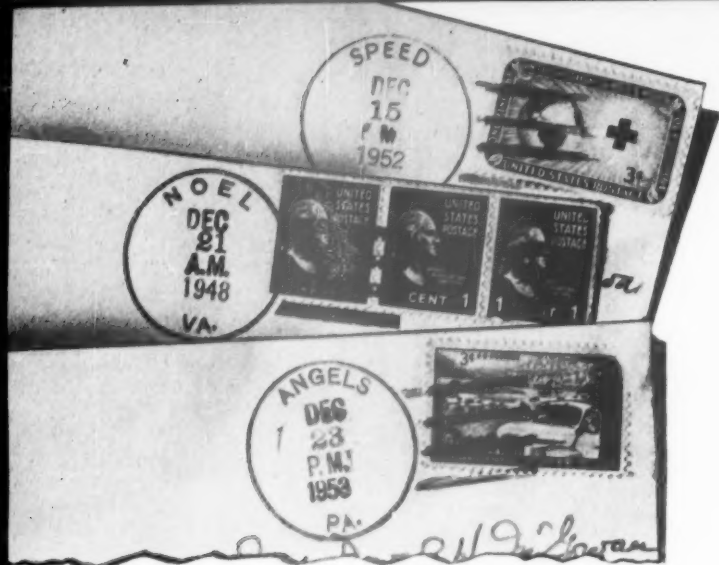
Although the party committee gets things set up, it's on the night before the show that the main body of supervisors really get into the act. At six o'clock that evening, they'll move in on the Athletic Pavilion. To watch them get the fourteen thousand-seat basketball arena ready for the kids is as eye-opening as the show itself. Huge balloons float from the rafters, steel girders turn into massive red and white striped candy canes, food service facilities appear, and a protective plywood floor covers the entire basketball court.

The beauty of it, right down the line, is that there are any number of jobs to be done—some of them calling for much back-bending—and the number of volunteers is astounding. More than two thousand offered their services for anything that had to be done last year.

Nonetheless, the volunteer situation created the main gripe of last year's show. There just weren't enough jobs to go around. It went right up to the top brass, too. President William M. Allen, for instance, called the president of the Boeing Supervisors' Club into his office one day about a month or more before last year's show. "Look," he grinned, "I'm a member of the Supervisors' Club. My dues are paid up, and I'm entitled to help out in this party for the kids. Use your influence." Which is why a number of youngsters received their Christmas stockings from the hands of the Boeing president himself.

Stuffing Christmas stockings is a big job. Last year the project took place at Seattle's Cerebral Palsy Center building.





An idea which ties in with the Christmas season.

The Case History of a HOBBY

Blanche C. McGowan

SOMETIMES people who work in the recreation field find little time for recreation themselves. After constantly advising other people to take up a hobby for personal enjoyment and creative satisfaction, I began to realize that I was in need of one myself.

My forte, games and social recreation, involves mostly the head and the feet, which means that I do practically nothing with my hands. However, knitting and its allied forms of needlework constitute the easiest route to complete collapse for me. About that time, seven years or so ago, a friend of mine was searching for an inexpensive hobby he could share with his son. After dreaming up the idea of collecting postmarks from the approximately forty-two thousand post offices in the United States and territories and putting them in notebooks according to state, class and alphabet, he found it was an honest-to-goodness hobby that had been interesting people for years! From this initial prod, I decided this could be the hobby for me, too.

I sent to the U. S. Government Printing Office for a *U. S. Official Postal Guide*, Part I, Domestic Postal Service, priced at \$1.75, and read the alphabetical listing of all the post offices in our country. Talk about looking up just one word in the dictionary! I couldn't stop

until I had gone through the whole thing! As I read off the names, I came upon one which sounded very much like the holiday season: *Holly*, West Virginia—and thence began my new hobby.

I had played at making my Christmas cards for several years before this, more or less for the fun of it; and although they were not particularly inspired, they were my own. The year I bought the postal guide, my cards had an artistic arrangement of green felt holly leaves and red felt holly berries—and I sent them all to the post office at Holly to be postmarked and mailed.

The interval between then and the time when the cards began arriving in my friends' letterboxes seemed like years. The response was worth all the trouble, with the possible exception of a Harvard graduate who wanted to know what in the world I was doing in West Virginia at Christmas time.

I wrote to the postmistress at *Noel*, Virginia, thanking her for the clearness of her postmarks and her cooperation on mailing my cards one year, and had a reply enclosing a reprint from a Richmond, Virginia, newspaper, with a story and pictures on the brisk Christmas trade in stamps and postmarks in that tiny place.

The year I made a card with my initials cut out and folded so that when opened up gently they formed a tiny snowflake, I almost gave up the whole project. My Christmas list has over a hundred names on it and I was really

"in the groove" cutting out the pesky things. My cutting hand didn't get back into shape until Valentine's Day. However, I put the idea to use many times over teaching it to classes composed of child-sitting aunts and grandmothers, as well as those wanting material to interest convalescing children. The postmark from *Snowflake*, Virginia, couldn't have been better.

I chose *Speed*, North Carolina, in 1952, and made miniature baggage tags "Expressing Best Christmas Wishes" to my friends. I learned from a native Tar Heel hailing from a town near *Speed* that the name belied the activity generally found there. All I know is that those cards arrived early, a pleasant change from some of those in past years that took so long getting to the postmasters and back that they welcomed in the New Year! In fact, one postmaster held the cards and stamped them December 25 because I had said in my note to him

Big Chimney, West Virginia, inspired this creation designed on a plain filing card.



BLANCHE C. MCGOWAN is director of special activities, Community Recreation Service of Boston, Massachusetts.

that they were for Christmas, and he took me literally.

Someone may be wondering why I haven't mentioned *Christmas*, Florida, or *Santa Claus*, Indiana, or *Bethlehem*, Pennsylvania. These are all excellent, to be sure, but pretty much overworked. I like to exercise a bit more ingenuity, even though inspiration comes slowly at times!

Another reason for my choices is the fact that they are mostly fourth-class post offices. How can you tell which are fourth-class? In the alphabetical listing each has a number beside it, as 1, 2, 3; a fourth-class office is unnumbered. This is the smallest post office there is, and the postmark will be stamped *by hand*. A fourth-class office, determined by population and amount of business done there, has a large eye-catching postmark instead of the small ones which are machine-stamped. (In case you are interested in statistics, in my 1947 postal guide there were 19,400 fourth-class post offices and only 2,296 first-class ones.)

Perhaps one day I shall pay a visit to *Big Chimney*, West Virginia. That inspired one of my favorite creations: a filing card, used vertically; a strip of red crepe paper marked with lines of white ink simulating a brick chimney

and fastened with cellophane tape around the lower half of the card; a narrow band of cotton batting glued to the edge of the chimney for snow; and a Christmas gift tag of Santa Claus' head (with the red string attached) stapled to the top of the card itself did the trick. The place on the tag that said, "To____, From____," saved a great deal of time. Nonetheless, these took hours to make; but I must confess that I have two self-sacrificing friends who actually volunteer to do some of the assembly-line portion for me! Not only that, they begin needling me around mid-October to get going on my plans for the next year's card.

I chose *Angels*, Pennsylvania and tried to make my angel look slightly three dimensional by folding stiff white paper down the middle and gluing the separate pieces only at the fold and a bit beyond. Her little dress was cut from shiny white shelf paper, her wings were slices of paper doilies, and her lips and eyes were dots of red and blue pencil crayon. Her tiny halo of gilt paint, which, incidentally, took a long time to dry, was applied with a brush.

I found, in a stationery store, a new, gilt-edged way to sign one's name in gold. A small piece of gold foil which could be used in the same manner as

carbon paper was available at twenty-five cents a sheet. The only drawback was that it could not be used over and over again; once the gold was transferred to another paper, that was it! This was a blow to my budget. I had to buy five pieces of this gold paper, since twenty-five names were approximately all I could squeeze from one piece. But the gold of her halo, and the gold of the greetings, gave my angel a definite éclat.

I haven't decided what 1954's card will be as I write this, but there's one idea I've been mulling over for quite a spell. It has possibilities: *Mistletoe*, Kentucky.

Snowflake monogram effectively related design and postmark, evoked admiration.



The Christmas Prayer of the Children of America

Fred C. Morse

Dear Lord Jesus:

Thou has been so loving and generous to the boys and girls of America.

Sincerely we thank Thee for our fathers and mothers who love us.

We bless Thee for the homes that shelter us and the lovely churches that teach us the way of the Christian life.

We thank Thee for the patient teachers that day after day tell us about the wonders of Thy world.

And oh how we thank Thee for our America, the land of freedom and of happiness. May we ever be true to her and never, never let her fall into godless ways.

In other lands we know that there are thousands and thousands of boys and girls who have no homes or fathers and mothers and many of whom are suffering and dying.

Be with them, O Lord, Jesus, feed them and comfort them. Help us that we may send them our substance and our love that they may survive the tragedies of life.

And as we kneel before Thy altar this joyous Christmas time give us Thy blessing and we will praise Thee forever and ever. Amen.

This prayer by Mr. Morse, president of the Mutual Savings Institution, Austin, Texas, was used on the very attractive program of the annual Austin Community Christmas Program in 1952.



Members of senior citizen service corps visit elderly patients.

The story of the Senior Citizens' Service Corps of New York City.

Ruth M. Snyder

A Volunteer Program for Older Persons

● The social work and medical professions have long known that activity which combines satisfaction with a feeling of usefulness is basic to good personal adjustment. This is true of all ages and particularly so for the elderly who, no longer active in business or with family responsibilities, doubly appreciate the satisfaction that comes with worthwhile accomplishment.

To meet this need, as well as to provide services to older persons in hospitals, nursing homes and similar facilities, in New York City, the Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Aged, through its Sub-Committee on Civil Defense and Community Services, inaugurated the Senior Citizens' Service Corps. In May 1952, the subcommittee was successful in recruiting older persons for civil defense work and approximately one hundred persons, aged sixty-five to eighty-two, joined the city's civil defense program. Assignments were geared to the type of job to which each person seemed best suited.

In subsequent city-wide drills it was demonstrated that this use of senior citizens for volunteer defense work was not only practical but of real value to the older person and to the community. The success of the venture, and the response of older persons generally, led the subcommittee to extend the program to include volunteer services to chronically ill patients.

It was recognized that such a project would not be wholly effective without a trained worker to plan with cooperating agencies, to screen applicants, and to train and assign volunteers. Thus, through the cooperation of the New York City Department of Welfare, to which the Mayor's Advisory Committee functions in an advisory capacity, a professional worker was made available for an experimental period. Office facilities were provided in the office of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Aged, and through the efforts of the chairman, inexpensive descriptive leaflets were printed.

RUTH M. SNYDER is consultant to the Bureau of Special Services of the Department of Welfare in New York City.



Volunteers provide entertainment at birthday party celebrations which have become a part of city nursing-home programs.

Every outlet for free publicity was utilized. Through the aid of newspapers and radio stations, press releases and spot announcements were arranged. Help was sought from groups and agencies dealing with older persons. Limitations of space prevent the naming of the many groups and individuals through whose generous cooperation the project was made known.

As is true of any new program, recruitment was slow. This is understandable in a program which attempts to enlist older persons. The contribution of the older person has been overlooked for so long, and it is only within the last decade that society has again begun to appreciate his worth. From April 3, when recruitment began, to June 25, 1953, sixty-four persons had been interviewed; seventeen were screened and assigned, following a brief orientation course; and three persons were awaiting interview. In addition, a choral group of twenty-five persons offered to provide concerts in the fall to hospitalized patients.

Three projects were immediately put into operation. The

largest was at Coler Memorial Home and Hospital, where fifteen older men and women were assigned to read aloud to patients, help with the writing of letters, provide library service, and assist with a monthly birthday party held for patients. Two other volunteers were assigned respectively to a voluntary nursing home for older persons and a private home for the aged. Other services which were seen as a possibility for the older volunteer were giving clerical assistance, instructing in simple crafts, playing chess or checkers with patients, escorting wheelchair patients to the institution's moving picture program or chapel, acting as interpreters, and helping to feed bed-bound patients.

Many volunteers, although expressing interest in offering their services, preferred to wait for the cooler weather to begin. Several others who accepted assignments dropped out after a few months, and still others, who obviously wanted to join the volunteer program, were timid about taking on responsibility on a regular basis.

In evaluating the program in the late fall of 1953, it was evident that one worker could not hope to be in sufficiently close contact with a substantial number of volunteers, many of whom worked on different days and in several different locations, to provide the kind of supportive treatment and encouragement the older volunteers seemed to need. In January, 1954, therefore, it was decided to tie in the senior citizens' volunteer program with the department of welfare's day centers for the aged. Persons who called the central office regarding volunteer work were referred to the day center nearest their home. There the head worker interviewed and screened the applicant and endeavored to assign him to a nearby location.

Volunteers already active were likewise brought into close contact with a neighborhood day center. In this way, both the experienced volunteer and the newcomer were seen on a regular basis and given the opportunity to talk through any problems which bothered them about their assignments. Those who found an assignment to a hospital on a regular basis too burdensome were offered either fewer hours a month or encouraged to try a less taxing project, such as, for

example, friendly visiting or performing simple services for a day center member who might be temporarily housebound. Other assignments arranged for volunteers consisted of accompanying older persons to clinics and making bandages and surgical dressings for neighborhood hospitals.

Figures, as of June 1954, show that there are now one hundred and ninety-nine older men and women enrolled in the Senior Citizens' Service Corps. Thirty-eight are providing service in seven hospitals and one nursing home; one hundred and twenty are engaged in friendly visiting and performing other simple services for housebound individuals; thirty are assigned to various phases of civil defense work; eight persons are working on a bandage and surgical dressing project; and three volunteers work entirely with the blind. Seven older persons are awaiting placement.

The tie-in of the volunteer program with the day center program has had two distinct advantages. It provides a workable plan for keeping in closer touch with the volunteer, and, at the same time, offers the volunteer, in addition to his service to others, an opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a group activity program designed specifically for older people. The relationship of the individual volunteer to the group and the influence of the group process have brought about a feeling of belonging, strengthened personal security, and added to the values of the individual's as well as the group's contribution.*

In a comparatively short time, with no paid publicity and only a modest outlay of funds, a service unique in the history of volunteers because of its use of senior citizens has been successfully launched. Apart from the usual benefits associated with volunteer service, the conservation of funds, and release of paid staff for other duties, the use of older persons as recreation aides offers a rewarding service both to volunteer and to patient. The Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Aged and the New York City Department of Welfare are to be congratulated on their foresight and social awareness.

* See *Social Group Work—Principles and Practices*, by Harleigh B. Trecker, The Woman's Press, New York, 1948; pp. 58-59.—Ed.

RECREATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>For Further Information</i>
February 16-19	43rd Annual Conference of Council of Southern Mountain Workers, Gatlinburg, Kentucky	The Council of Southern Mountain Workers, Box 2000, College Station, Berea, Kentucky
February 13-20	Longhorn Recreation Laboratory, Christian Youth Foundation Camp, Athens, Texas	Dawn N. Duncan, President, Longhorn Recreation Laboratory, 2213 Avenue G, Bay City, Texas
March	Mid-Continent Park and Recreation Conference, University of Minnesota, Center for Continuation Study, Park & Recreation Administration Training, Minneapolis, Minnesota	Felix K. Dhainin, Board of Park Commissioners, 325 City Hall, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota

All those who wish to have their workshops, institutes, and conferences included should send the information to NRA Personnel Service by the date indicated: January, February and March programs will be listed in *December*—information should reach us by October 15. April, May and June will be listed in *March*—deadline for information is January 15. July, August and September will be listed in *June*—deadline for information is April 15. October, November and December will be listed in *September*—deadline for information is July 15.

Music and the season's warmth are passed on to the ill and the aged.

CAROLERS SING



for Everyone

Emily Hulshizer



The Christmas carol project for shut-ins in Des Moines, Iowa, was inaugurated in 1950, as an undertaking of the music committee of the Federation of Women's Clubs, assisted by the local recreation commission. The National Recreation Association sent materials; and Arthur Todd, the Association's district representative in the Middle West, led the assembled carolers and other community folks in pre-program caroling and tableaux on the steps of the state capitol. Immediately following this, the pre-arranged caroling program was carried to all parts of the city by the caroling groups.

Plans for the event were started at a luncheon, to which were invited representatives from civic and music organizations. Federation committee members and their guests laid general plans, and broad responsibilities were delegated for publicity, correspondence, location of the sing, the securing of a song leader, and so on. Subsequent meetings took care of such details as traffic and parking problems, properties needed, arrangements for carol books.

Publicity plans were very carefully outlined, and excellent cooperation was obtained from the local press and radio stations. Direct invitations to participate were mailed to singing groups. Two hundred and fifteen cards were

sent to the churches, letters were written to choir directors, music club presidents, the women's club, public schools, civic groups and various other groups.

Sustained public interest prior to the evening was achieved through the detailed publicity plans. The *Register-Tribune* carried a sequence of stories for three weeks, covering such news as the committee luncheon, a general story of the project with a picture of Mr. Todd and the announcement that he was to be the song leader, and other human interest stories concerning planning and preparation. Use of placards on two hundred and seven taxis, colored posters for churches, hotels, the main library, railroad and bus stations, and colleges gave additional publicity. One large department store made and placed posters in its windows. After the event, each of the eight neighborhood papers carried a complete story.

Other arrangements made included: a chart of the statehouse steps, showing numbered sections and assignment space for carolers, which was mailed to each group; the help of two squad cars of traffic officers to facilitate parking and smooth flow of traffic; fifty Boy Scouts to usher on the steps; donation of the carol books and a story in the paper telling where to secure them; a record player and public address system for the leader's use; two forty-foot backdrops and spotlights for the tableau.

Mr. Todd arranged the program for the evening. He made use of recorded music, while people were arriving, in-

terspersed with introductory remarks, introductions, and general commentary. He also set up a well-balanced program through skilled use of carols, some special numbers and the tableau, followed by more carols and concluding remarks. The statehouse steps provided a setting not unlike our national Capitol, for there are thirty-five steps leading to a high-pillared portico. Frigid temperatures did not stop five hundred and seventy-seven singers from gathering on the steps to sing under Mr. Todd's leadership for forty minutes.

There was real family participation in the caroling, several groups having entire families in their personnel. Among these carolers were choirs and carol units from schools, sororities, civic organizations, Sunday schools, music clubs, the women's club, P.T.A., Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, nurses, the Negro community center, as well as a professional male quartet, and several church, neighborhood, and small private groups.

After the big general program, caroling groups made appearances in hospitals, nursing homes, children's homes, homes for the aged, the library, hotels, a department store tearoom, and at three broadcasts. Strolling carolers also toured in the six districts of our city.

To arrange a carol program geared to the institution or locality visited, supervisors were consulted as to the time, size of group desired, and the purpose; that is, whether the carolers were to entertain only, to lead a "sing," or to pro-

MRS. HULSHIZER is music chairman, Des Moines Federation of Women's Clubs, sponsor of the carol program.

vide a combination of the two. This assured a satisfying evening for those at the various places where singers appeared, and enabled the committee to use all types of groups or individuals who wished to participate. Thirty-nine groups, with a total personnel of five hundred and forty-one singers, made fifty-five appearances.

Results were more than gratifying: all the groups were well received. Report sheets, filled out by group supervisors, indicated that 2,503 people listened to the carols. This number did not include people in railroad stations, the library, or those who enjoyed the music from the warm comfort of their cars on the statehouse grounds. The supervisors' comments emphasized the spontaneous response to the carols and the fine degree of cheer and spirit it brought to listeners. This justified, many times over, the great effort involved in giving the evening of carols.

New heights were realized in 1951. A thirty-foot blue spruce, donated for the plaza of the statehouse, was illuminated for the two weeks before Christ-

mas. Forty-five singing groups, totaling a thousand voices, signed up to participate. Then along came an all-day snowstorm which upset many of the arrangements, including the number of people participating. However, a new plan for the evening was used to advantage. Individual groups did their caroling, then met afterwards at the statehouse for singing together and a program.

The weather precluded outdoor singing, so the event was held in the basement of the capitol. A brass ensemble from Drake University provided fine prelude music. The theme of the evening was the brotherhood of man as expressed through the United Nations. Costumed groups sang the carols of many lands, Italy, Germany, Greece, Denmark, France, and Mexico. The National Council of Catholic Women presented a beautiful tableau. There were folk dances by small Mexican children and a gay frolic around the Christmas tree by the Danish college students in costume. Stanford Hulshizer, of Drake University, led the massed group in the beloved carols. In keeping with the

tradition of our English cousins and the Wassail bowl, everyone joined in the treat of hot chocolate, coffee, and doughnuts contributed by many firms and individuals.

For the past two years the project has continued to grow. Experience with zero weather in previous years has caused cancellation of any large community sing until such time as a civic auditorium will be available. Full emphasis is on taking carols to the ill, the homeless, and the aged. The local papers, radio stations, and schools all cooperate. Last year, five hundred and fifty singers made fifty-five appearances. There is always a heart warming response to the music as well as to the singers themselves.

Would it not be a truly wonderful tradition in America if every village, town, and city would have a yearly community Christmas sing and program of carols for the homeless, the ill, and the aged? It can be done! It is earnestly hoped that this report may bring enough practical ideas to help countless others start such programs.

The Night Before a Fire-Safe Christmas

Captain Claude Conlin, Jr.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
When down through the chimney, all covered with soot,
Came the "Spirit of Fire," an ugly galoot.
His eyes glowed like embers, his features were stern,
As he looked all around for something to burn.
What he saw made him grumble, his anger grew higher,
For there wasn't a thing that would start a good fire.
No doors had been blocked by the big Christmas tree,
It stood in the corner leaving passageways free.

The lights that glowed brightly for Betty and Tim
Had been hung with precaution so none touched a limb.
All wiring was new, not a break could be seen,
And wet sand at its base kept the tree nice and green.

The tree had been trimmed by a mother insistent
That the ornaments used must be fire-resistant.
And mother had known the things to avoid,
Like cotton, and paper, and plain celluloid.
Rock wool, metal icicles, trinkets of glass,
Gave life to the tree; it really had class.

And would you believe it, right next to the tree
Was a suitable box for holding debris,
A place to throw wrapping of paper and string,
From all the gifts that Santa might bring.
The ugly galoot was so mad he could "bust,"
As he climbed up the chimney in utter disgust.
For the folks in this home had paid close attention
To all of the rules of good "FIRE PREVENTION."

CAPTAIN CONLIN of the Los Angeles Fire Department received the National Edwards Award for 1953, an honor given annually to the person performing the most outstanding work in the field of fire prevention in the United States.

Reprinted with permission from *California Parent-Teacher*, December 1953.

Reporter's Notebook

College Christmas Festival

An annual all-nations Christmas festival will be celebrated once again on December 6, Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This event follows a traditional pattern which includes an evening program of colorful dances, games and the songs of various lands. The countries represented vary somewhat from year to year, according to the make-up of the student body, but usually number about fifteen.

Recently there have been students from such varied locales as Denmark, Holland, Germany, Japan, and Korea; and the children of returned missionaries have brought a touch of countries as remote as Zululand. All these, added to the Swedish and Norwegian people who make up the majority, lend the festival an authenticity that is not often equalled in college presentations.



In many booths, students and faculty in the native dress of their various countries serve traditional foods. The booths range from a Greek temple to an English cottage or a Korean pagoda; and visitors wander about eating such exotic foods as Greek *baklava* or *melomakarino*, English roast suckling pig, Norwegian *lefse* and *rommegrot*, and round red Dutch cheeses.

ARS Election

The American Recreation Society elected new officers at the annual meeting of the society in St. Louis. These officers, who will serve for a year, are: President—Sterling S. Winans, direc-

tor of recreation, California Recreation Commission; first vice-president—Harry C. English, director of community centers, Washington, D. C.; second vice-president—Miss Pat Abernethy, advisor, Army Service Clubs, Washington, D. C.; secretary—Eugene Bernwell, director of recreation, Alexandria, Virginia; treasurer—Charles Boyce, community center director, Washington, D. C.; and president-elect—George T. Sargisson, executive director, Recreation and Promotion Service, Wilmington, Delaware.

Here and There

◆ The Rev. Dr. James W. Clarke, minister of the Second Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, who made the inspiring banquet address at the recent National Recreation Congress, has been appointed professor of homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary.

◆ Dr. Philip L. Seman, honorary president of the Chicago Recreation Commission, as well as one of its founders, and general manager of the Jewish People's Institute for over thirty years, recently received the "Man of the Year in Jewish Education Award" from the American Association for Jewish Education at the organization's annual conference.

◆ E. Dana Caulkins, has resigned his position as superintendent for the Westchester County Recreation Commission, a position he held since 1933, to become recreation consultant to the Health and Welfare Council of the counties of Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

◆ Berea College and the Council of Southern Mountain Workers, in cooperation with the Country Dance Society of America, Inc., will sponsor the seventeenth Christmas School at Berea, Kentucky, December 27, 1954, to January 2, 1955. The Christmas School, established to serve the Southern Highlands, is open to all persons interested in authentic American, English, and Danish material, including the traditional dances, singing games, songs, tales, and music of the Southern Highlands. For information, write to Frank H. Smith, Director, Box 1826, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky.

◆ Spectator conduct at high school football games has been a frequent target of criticism as game disturbances

and rowdiness have increased. However, in Toledo, Ohio, sixteen area high schools completed their schedules free of any such criticism. Key to this fine performance record was the Sportsmanship Contest, conceived, planned, sponsored, and operated by the Toledo Area Student Council. Basis of the contest was a sportsmanship code drawn up several years ago by the area council, re-adapted to cover incidents occurring away from high school games, such as student behavior on busses, neighborhood fights, destruction of property, and downtown disturbances.

Officials at each football game rated both competing schools on sportsmanship as determined by attitudes of players, cooperation of coaches, sportsmanship and school spirit of the student body, and conduct of players and student bodies after the game. An independent rating of the schools was prepared by representatives of the press covering the game, and the area police departments. The *Toledo Blade* published weekly ratings by the game officials, sports writers and police. Results were summed up by E. L. Bowsher, superintendent of Toledo schools, "It is a great achievement; and it is my hope that this program may be carried on for a long time to come."

◆ "Leadership first, facilities later" is the recommendation of a report on an enlarged recreation program for the cities of Alcoa and Maryville and for Blount County in Tennessee. The report entitled "Public Recreation—A Plan for Community Action," calls for the formation of an official recreation commission in Alcoa, Maryville, and Blount County and coordination of recreation activities for the three areas, north of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The recreation study committee's report was prepared in cooperation with the Division of State Planning of the Tennessee State Planning Commission and the Division of State Parks of the Tennessee Department of Conservation, with William M. Hay, consultant on Defense Related Recreation Services of the National Recreation Association, as special advisor.

◆ A zoological garden at Angrignon Park in the densely-populated Ville Emard district of Montreal, Canada, is reaching its final stages of development after thirty years of "slow accretion" as regards funds and acreage. The zoo, for which the city council recently purchased 5,613,939 square feet of additional land, will cost about \$7,000,000 when completed. The surrounding park will cover an area of around 260 acres. The Montreal Parks and Playgrounds Department is also constructing a children's zoo in Lafontaine Park. This

will contain seven ponds and seventeen units illustrating French nursery-rhyme themes. There will be a giant Jonah's Whale with stomach big enough for children to walk around in and a huge Noah's Ark to clamber through. They'll buy ice cream cones in the shoe of the old woman "who had so many children she didn't know what to do." There are also long-range plans for another children's zoo in the western Notre Dame de Grace area of the city.

◆ From Athens, Greece, John H. Bruner, assistant secretary of the Far East Foundation, reports on the work of the demonstration rehabilitation center operated by the foundation in cooperation with the Greek Government. The center staged an athletic field day to show that wooden legs are no hindrance to gymnastics. Children as well as young men and women demonstrated a mass Swedish drill, foot races, exercises on the parallel bars, and the fete ended with a basketball game.

◆ John Moake, superintendent of parks and recreation in Carbondale, Illinois, obtained a truck for use in his department free of charge in the same manner that schools receive the use of new cars for driver training courses. He talked to a car dealer who agreed to supply the truck—which carries a sign reading "Carbondale Park District"—and, at the close of the year, if the truck is returned to the dealer in good condition, Mr. Moake will receive another for use the following year.

◆ Ice skating is in season and four communities announce increased facilities. The tennis courts at Ballenger Park, Flint, Michigan, will change over to an outdoor rink through the installation of take-up type equipment. Supervision and instruction at this privately endowed park will be directed by Frank J. Manley of the Mott Foundation.

A new artificial outdoor rink in Utica, New York, will be used for dancing and roller skating during the summer months.

Syracuse, New York, has put ice skating on a year-round basis, and next summer an out-of-season program will include lessons in free-style figure skating, general straight skating, patch skating and ice dancing.

The city council of Niagara Falls, New York, recently authorized a new artificial rink approximately 80 by 180 feet to cost \$45,000. The council's approval of the project climaxed one of the most intensive public campaigns for a municipal project ever waged. Scores of organizations and individuals joined forces to press the project.

◆ Fall and winter activities at thirty-eight New York City Police Athletic

League recreation centers started with the annual city-wide registration for 1954-55 membership, which is open to all boys and girls between the ages of seven and twenty, inclusive. The PAL recreation program for New York City youth is sponsored by the police department, staffed by recreation specialists, and supported as a community responsibility by the contributions of the general public.

The program consists of physical, social and cultural activities. James B. Nolan, deputy police commissioner and president of the League, announced that more than a quarter of a million boys and girls participated in the activities last year.

Facts and Figures

New Jersey—Purchase of approximately six thousand acres for a new state park near the Delaware Water Gap was authorized recently at a cost of \$420,000. The area has four and one-half miles of frontage on the Delaware River, contains three trout streams, and the one-hundred-and-thirty-acre Sunfish Pond, a natural lake on one of the ridges of the Kittatinny Range.

Ohio—Norwalk opened a swimming pool at a cost of seventy-three thousand dollars. Cleveland has ten new ultra-modern swimming pools at a cost of approximately one million dollars. They are called "walk to" pools because they are in areas where there are thirty-five thousand people within a three-quarter mile distance.

Oklahoma—Boiling Springs State Park will soon offer many new features. The bubbling springs for which the park was named will be glassed in and a huge picnic shelter built over them.

South Dakota—Lands surrounding the six-thousand-acre Angostura Reservoir on the Cheyenne River have been acquired for park and recreation development.

Texas—A fifty-year lease for four hundred and sixteen acres in the Denison Reservoir area for use as part of Eisenhower State Park was signed recently by the Texas State Parks Board.

Notes From Our Headquarters

• Two recent changes of address for National Recreation Association field staff personnel are:

William Hay, P. O. Box 1094, Decatur, Georgia.

Waldo Hainsworth, Fowler Road, Northbridge, Massachusetts.

• Members of the Association staff returning from the Congress were greeted with the following note, placed conspicuously in the center of each desk, from one of the many Congress-minded staff members who stayed at home to keep

the behind-the-scenes wheels rolling:

WELCOME HOME TO:

1. Full In-Baskets
2. Moving! (More file cleaning!)
3. Noise from Metropolitan Life (They have new, louder drills just for your homecoming!)
4. The same Creaky Elevators
5. More Forms to fill out. (Wilson's been working!)
6. Hidden Radios (Bless the Giants!)
7. Irate office workers! (We wanted to go to St. Louis, too!)

P.S. Please spare us..... We know the 36th Congress was the Biggest and Best..... just do us a favor and.....work! (They also served who only stayed home and listened to the World Series!)

IN MEMORIAM

William G. Robinson

William G. Robinson, former staff member of the National Recreation Association, died at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 24 at seventy-one.

Mr. Robinson, a graduate of Yale University, served the Association from 1919 until 1941, first as a division secretary and then as a Great Lakes District field representative. During World War II he worked with the Office of Community War Services of the Federal Security Agency. He later became assistant in community organization for the University of Michigan Extension Service. After his retirement from this position, in 1952, he continued serving in the capacity of consultant.

Mr. Robinson, who was devotedly considered the "grand old man" of public recreation in Michigan, was awarded a plaque by the Michigan Recreation Association in 1952 for his long and distinguished service in his chosen field.

Eugene T. Lies

Eugene T. Lies, who was seventy-eight years old, died on October 27 at Tucson, Arizona.

Mr. Lies was a member of the staff of the National Recreation Association from 1913 until 1940, working part of that time as the field representative for the Southwest District. He was a graduate of Cornell University and the New York School of Social Work. Before joining the Association staff, he was the general superintendent of the United Charities of Chicago.

He traveled extensively throughout the United States and in Europe and Mexico, studying local customs and community conditions. He prepared numerous studies and surveys and was the author of several articles and the book, *The New Leisure Challenges the Schools*, which was published jointly by the National Education Association and the National Recreation Association in 1933. One of his oft-repeated statements was his self-coined recipe for longevity: "Keep limber, lovin' and a little bit looney!"



George Hjelte, general manager, Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles, and chairman of the National Advisory Council of the National Recreation Association, is welcomed by Joseph Prendergast, executive director of the Association, as Congress starts.

Sojourners in St. Louis

Delegates in Action at the 36th National Recreation Congress

Early birds manage to avoid the big rush at the Congress registration center. Peg Dankworth of the National Recreation Association staff, who was in charge of the center, is standing between two St. Louis volunteers as she gives them some necessary pointers. In the background, John Collier, district representative for the NRA, pins an identification badge on one of the first to sign in, Leroy Tintle, the superintendent of recreation in Hempstead, Long Island, New York.

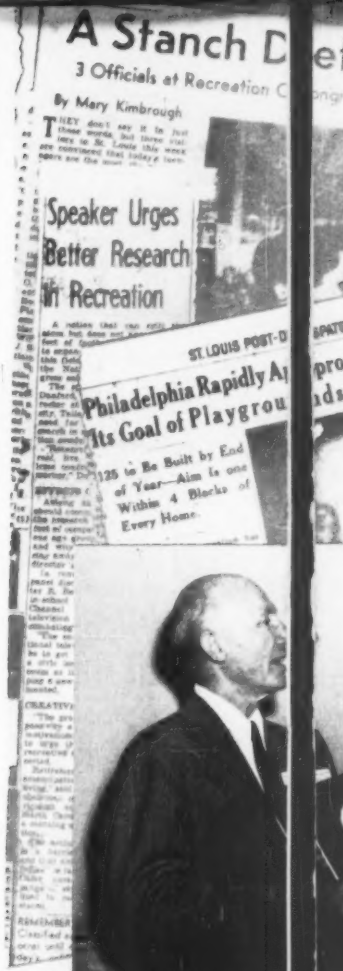


Display of RECREATION magazine at the Congress attracted many visitors, including, from left to right: Catherine Allen, professor of recreation at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; Beatrice Froelich, supervisor of playgrounds and girls' and women's activities, Canton, Ohio; and Helen Dauncey, the Katherine F. Barker Memorial Secretary for Women and Girls and social recreation specialist for NRA.



Recreation Vital to Man's Welfare, Dr. Clarke Says

The importance of recreation to man's welfare was stressed by Dr. Clarke, president of the National Recreation Association, at the 36th National Recreation Congress at the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis, Sept. 10-14. Dr. Clarke, who is also president of the American Psychological Association, said that recreation is a vital part of man's life and that it should be given the same importance as education and health. He said that recreation is a means of achieving a better life and that it should be given the same importance as education and health. He said that recreation is a means of achieving a better life and that it should be given the same importance as education and health.



Defense of the Teen-Ager:



Left, members of the discussion panel on problems of recreation boards and commissions, from left to right: James A. Downey, Jr., president, Park and Recreation Board, Birmingham, Alabama; chairman, Mrs. Everett M. Findlay, past-president, Recreation Commission, Long Beach, California; Mildred G. Johnson, member, Recreation Commission, Oakland, California; John C. Kubacki, president of the Board of Recreation, Reading, Pennsylvania; a truly qualified group.



WELL-PLANNED PLAY URGED FOR PRISONS
Florida Warden Says Recreation Help Thwart Plans by Convicts to Escape

Speaker Hails Gains in Status of Recreation
American Recreation Council report states that recreation in correctional institutions has made gains in status and importance in recent years.

Below, three members of one of the discussion panels on recreation leadership in correctional institutions, left to right: Leonard Brumm, Jr., recreation director, Michigan State Prison, Marquette; Fred Grigg, superintendent of Umstead Youth Center, Butner, North Carolina; and W. C. Williamson, recreation director, Georgia Training School for Boys, Milledgeville, Georgia.



Left, two hundred and fifty interested recreation leaders watch a "live" demonstration of creative dramatics conducted by Grace Stanistreet, center, director of Children's Theatre, Adelphi College in Garden City, New York. Children are from St. Louis, had not had any prior experience.

Must Learn to Use Leisure for Play, Speaker Asserts
Recreation who play method recreation, the speaker asserted, is the only way to make a person a better person. The speaker said that the only way to make a person a better person is to make them play. The speaker said that the only way to make a person a better person is to make them play.

ROLE OF RECREATION IN COMMUNITY CITIES
Recreation is the only way to make a person a better person. The speaker said that the only way to make a person a better person is to make them play. The speaker said that the only way to make a person a better person is to make them play.

Leisure Called Necessary for Emotional Health
The speaker said that the only way to make a person a better person is to make them play. The speaker said that the only way to make a person a better person is to make them play. The speaker said that the only way to make a person a better person is to make them play.

Below, Gaylord Donnelley, left, board member of the National Recreation Association, and C. D. Jackson, vice-president of Time Inc. and one of the speakers at the Congress, compare two leading periodicals in the sports and recreation field: RECREATION and Sports Illustrated.



RECREATION is glad to record new or unique types of recreation equipment and modifications in usual designs or construction methods. Readers are requested to submit information about such developments for use in future issues.



Beach Kindergarten Area

● The kindergarten area above, at Metropolitan Beach, one of the properties



Playfield adjoins sand beach. Beyond the kindergarten are shuffleboard courts and an eighteen-hole pitch-putt golf course.

operated by the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority in Detroit, Michigan, has several unusual features. One of these is a concrete sandbox, seventy-two feet long and four feet wide, with a tile plaque representing scenes from Mother Goose rhymes set along the top. An ornamental fence along the sandbox permits parents and visitors to view the children at play without interference. Covering the sandbox is a translucent plastic roof which suffuses a soft green light and protects the occupants from the full glare of the sun.

Manufactured equipment pieces, other than regular swings and slides, which have proved to be extremely popular are the revolving garden gates, shown in the accompanying picture, and bucking bronco swings. Most of the play equipment was constructed in

the authority's shops and was designed after conferences with teachers at the Merrill Palmer School in Detroit, recognized as outstanding authorities on child psychology. It consists largely of horses, springboards, crates, hidden boxes, planks, large wooden blocks, and ladders.

This equipment is arranged entirely by the youngsters themselves who show considerable ingenuity in assembling the pieces to form obstacle courses as well as for imaginative play. These play



Drinking fountains are easily accessible.

materials become teeter-totters, castles, balancing and jumping boards, and exercise bars as youngsters devise new combinations and uses. Colors are limited to three bright hues, since more would only tend to confuse the children.

Toilet facilities, scaled for children, are available in an immediately adjacent wing of the main building group, and tot-size drinking fountains are also nearby. Three sizes of tricycles are furnished for the different age groups. Use

RECREATION

Facilities and Equipment

(Continued from October 1954 issue of RECREATION)

of the playground is restricted to children from two to seven years. Constant supervision is provided for the area by trained personnel.

For added interest, nature exhibits are placed in the building adjoining the kindergarten area, and frequent changes are made in the exhibits which are prepared by the authority's senior naturalist. An Indian tepee was erected in one corner of the grounds, but proved to be something of a nuisance and was discontinued.

The kindergarten area is a most popular unit at Metropolitan Beach which affords not only facilities for bathing, but a beach promenade thirty-two feet wide, twenty shuffleboard courts, a pitch-and-putt golf course, a playground for older children, a turtle race track, boat basins, and a softball diamond. Several of these are shown in the accompanying illustration.

A Removable Fence

● The problem of adapting a single baseball field to the needs of Little

Boys set up fence for Little League baseball. Most recreation authorities do not approve advertising on public properties.



League, Pony League, and adult softball teams was solved in Alice, Texas, by the construction of a movable fence, enabling the diamond to be used by all three groups. According to Ben Parsons, city director of parks and recreation, who developed the idea, the fence has overcome a problem caused by a shortage of manpower and capital.

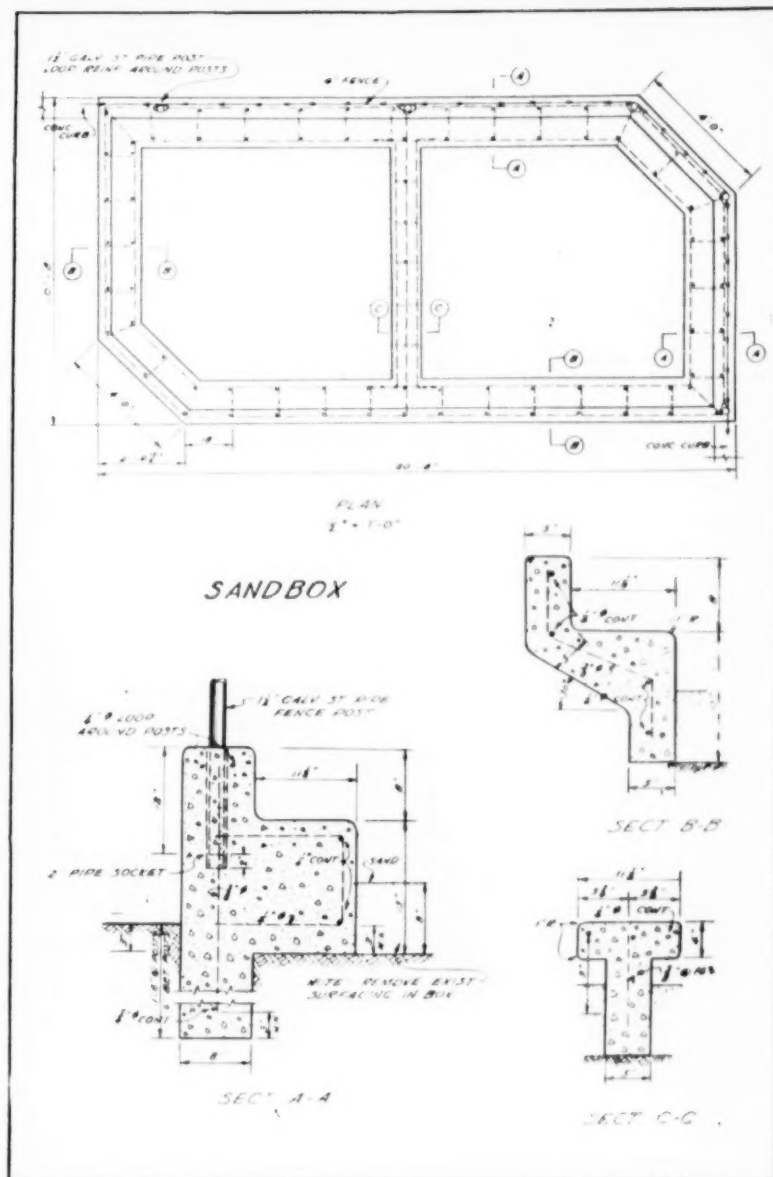
The fence, Mr. Parsons reports, was designed so it would not be too bulky and heavy, but would be sturdy enough to last several seasons. Each section, four by twelve feet, was made of outside plywood, backed by two-by-fours



Connection in portable fence. Cement contains sunken pipe into which twelve-inch pipe fits to provide fence support.

for support. Two pieces of one-inch heavy duty pipe, four and a half feet long, were bolted to the two-by-fours on each section so they protruded one foot below the bottom of the fence. Pieces of one-and-a-half-inch pipe, one foot long, were then set in cement in the ground at the proper locations for the fence, thus allowing the one-inch pipe protruding from the sections of fence to fit inside and afford a support. The one-half-inch play in the pipe allows the fence to be removed readily. The fence-moving operation requires an average of only seven minutes, enabling the field to be converted while one team is having its infield practice.

The pitching mound on the diamond was constructed in an oval shape and all three pitchers' rubbers were mounded at the regulation distance. The bases are held in place by two sets of spikes, one set at sixty feet for Little League and softball, and one at seventy-five feet for Pony League. The field thus meets the official requirements for all three games.



Playground Facilities in Oakland

Several features developed by the recreation department in Oakland, California, afford suggestions that might be useful to other cities. One of them is the two-unit sandbox designed for the use of young children. In order to afford a place where children can make sand pies and other shapes on the edge of the box and to prevent the sand from being spilled outside the box, a shelf or seat with a back was incorporated in the sandbox design. The accompanying sketch shows the plan for a concrete sandbox with the two units, each ap-

proximately eight feet square. Between them is a low shelf, eleven and a half inches wide. The exterior walls of the sandbox take the form of a shelf or seat, eleven and a half inches wide, with a back eight inches high. The sketch shows how the walls of the sandbox are modified whenever they are used as a support for a fence.

In Oakland the first choice of a surface for the apparatus area is sand; and, where sand is used in this way, sandboxes are usually eliminated. Where the apparatus area is close to a building

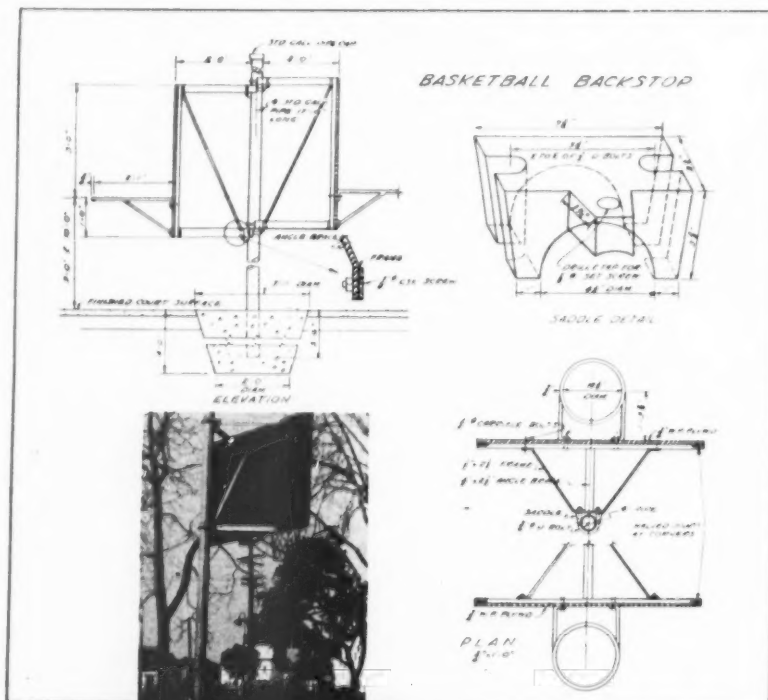
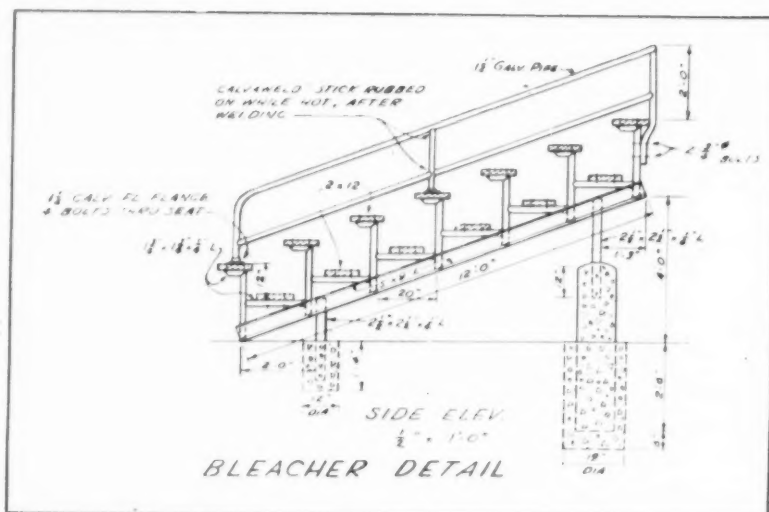
with good floors, tanbark is used for a surfacing material, and special sand-boxes are provided. These are being moved away from the tanbark, however, because when sand is spilled on the tanbark it gives a playground an unattractive appearance. Bert M. Trubody, the department's superintendent of maintenance and construction, has made the following comments concerning the use of sand and tanbark:

"We find tanbark good looking, resilient, and easy on floors, but it is hard to keep free of broken glass and foreign matter. Also, it needs frequent additions and in two or three years turns to dust and looks like top soil needing complete replacement. Sand, on the other hand, looks as good after six years as when first put in. It requires yearly supplements also, but the cost is much less. We have a large scoop shovel with the bottom cut out with a torch and one-half-inch-mesh rabbit wire welded in. Each caretaker has one and, in a matter of minutes, can sift a large sand area clear of foreign matter."

- Bleachers which are very rigid in construction have been designed for playground use. Their unique feature is the use of concrete rear columns, fourteen inches in diameter, which support the bleachers and eliminate the need for lateral or cross bracing. An old water boiler provides the form for the column, which takes the side motion thrust. This type of bleacher has proved a boon and a time-saver for the maintenance man since it is easy to clean out under it.

- Basketball backstops of waterproof plywood with adjustable brackets have also proved effective. Two boards and brackets can be erected on a single four-inch pipe support, and they can be adjusted to different heights if desired. A specially built saddle enables the angle braces supporting the backstops to be fastened securely to the pipe. The accompanying illustration shows a single backstop, and the sketch affords construction details.

Rear columns of playground bleachers in Oakland were molded in old water boiler.





Research Reviews and Abstracts

George D. Butler

Readers are invited to send in information about research reports which might be reviewed or summarized in this section of the magazine.

A Citizens' Study of Recreation and Group Work*

Public and Private Agencies, Dade County, Florida

A Review

This excellent study, conducted in 1953, was carried out under the direction of a professional staff headed by Sidney B. Markey for group work agencies and by Weaver W. Pangburn for public agencies. A citizens' study committee of fifty-six persons reviewed the professional survey, conferred with the agencies involved, and submitted their recommendations to the entire committee. The purpose of the study was "... To prepare a long-range plan for the orderly development of needed buildings and grounds and the staff and program requirements ... in Dade County."

Primarily because of the extremely rapid growth of population in the county, the study possesses considerable significance as a means of determining the extent to which the needs of the people are now being met and what must be done to meet these needs more adequately now and in the future. Data were collected through "questionnaires, conferences with agency leaders both professional and lay, and through study of many reports and documents." There is no indication that the consumer, or participant, youth or adult, was questioned to determine his point of view with respect to various aspects of the agencies under consideration. This failure, if it actually occurred, seems to be a major weakness in the study. Other criticisms are:

1. The parochial school report indicates a lack of thoroughness.
2. The study refers to "the lack of major recreation courses in the universities of the state." Florida State University in Tallahassee offers both an undergraduate and a graduate major in recreation while the University of Florida in Gainesville offers an undergraduate major in recreation.
3. Emphasis upon the quantitative aspects of recreation to the neglect of the qualitative.
4. The recommendation that gymnasiums are unnecessary in elementary schools cannot be justified.

In general, however, the study is a superior one, data essential to it were collected, carefully analyzed, and recommendations in harmony with the facts were presented in clear and convincing manner, thus offering an excellent blueprint for the future.—DR. HOWARD G. DANFORD, *director of physical education, Florida State University, Tallahassee.*

* Published by Community Chest of Dade County, Welfare Planning Council of Dade County, Miami, Florida, March 1954.

MR. BUTLER is director of the NRA Research Department.

Accidents on Recreation Facilities

This study by John Montgomery, a member of the Oakland, California, recreation department staff, was made at the University of Illinois while the author was on a leave of absence for graduate study. The statistics in the report are based on accident data gathered by the Oakland recreation department on forms designed for accident reports.

The following are some of the major findings as reported in the July 1954 issue of the Illinois Recreation Association Bulletin:

Elementary playgrounds have the largest percentage of accidents in proportion to their attendance.

Community centers and municipal playgrounds have the largest number of accidents, but this number is not out of proportion to the number of people served.

Junior and senior high school facilities have the least number of accidents for general city play facilities.

Ball diamonds and swimming pools have a high percentage of accidents in proportion to their attendance.

Other facilities, day and mountain camps, and golf courses, have a small percentage of accidents.

Almost three times as many boys are injured than girls, while there are not quite twice as many boys on recreation facilities.

Adult injuries are not out of proportion to numbers who participate in recreation activities but, when they do occur, they are apt to be more serious than children's injuries.

Playing in the apparatus areas was the activity most often engaged in when accidents occurred.

The second greatest percentage of accidents occurred during softball games. The game can be hazardous if poorly supervised or coached.

Running, in a non-game situation, was the third greatest accident-inducing activity, while being a spectator was fourth.

Most frequently injured parts of anatomy were, in order of frequency: face, skull, arms and hands, legs and feet.

Lacerations (35.5 per cent) and bruises (24.4 per cent) account for more than half of the types of injuries incurred upon recreation facilities.

Accidents occur most frequently during the time when attendance is largest.

Serious accidents follow the general pattern of all accidents with the exception that arm and hand injuries produce 23 per cent of all serious injuries. Then in order of frequency are those of the face, legs, and skull. These four categories account for 75 per cent of all serious injuries.

A further breakdown shows that 61 per cent of ball diamond injuries were serious; 43 per cent of swimming pool and 36.5 per cent of municipal and community center facility injuries were serious.

Males not only had a much higher percentage of all injuries but tended to have more serious accidents than females.

Mr. Montgomery's report also contains a list of the principal causes of accidents and suggestions for an accident report system and use of the results.

Municipal Recreation Services in North Carolina

The North Carolina Recreation Commission has issued a third annual report of municipal recreation services in the

state, covering the year July 1953 to June 1954, and based on information supplied by administrators in thirty-six cities. The report covers a variety of subjects including, among others: the managing authority, its composition and legal status; the source of funds for operation and their relation to the total city budget; the breakdown of recreation service expenditures; per capita costs; and major improvements for the year. Tables also give, for each city, the salaries paid to personnel holding various recreation positions. Expenditures data include amounts spent for services rendered by both recreation and park departments.

Even though the report relates to municipal recreation services in a single state, it contains much information of value and interest to all recreation authorities such as:

1. Of forty-four year-round, municipally operated departments in the state, reports were received from thirty-six cities with about twenty-five per cent of the state's total population.
2. Recreation service is administered by a recreation commission in twenty cities, by a recreation and park commission in six and by an advisory recreation commission or committee in eight cities. Only one city reports that it has no form of board or committee.
3. In twenty-eight of the cities the commission or committee was created by local ordinance. In twenty-seven (or three-fourths) the program has been legally established since 1944. By-laws have been adopted in nineteen cities.
4. Over-all, master, or long range development plans for recreation have been made in twenty-seven of the cities.



5. Operating budgets for the year vary from \$1,300 in a town of 3,700 to \$423,304 in Charlotte, which has a population of 145,016. The budgets for the thirty-six communities averaged \$2.29 per capita. Fourteen cities had a budget of \$2.00 to \$3.00 per capita; eight cities, a budget between \$3.00 and \$4.00; and one city, between \$4.00 and \$5.00. The total in operating budgets (thirty-six cities) for 1952-53 was \$4,199,745 as compared with a total for 1951-52 (thirty-three cities) of \$3,552,982.

6. The percentage of the total operating budgets spent for recreation varied from .42 per cent to 13.61 per cent. For the cities as a whole, recreation accounted for nearly 5 per cent of the cities' budgets. (This compares with 4.4 per cent reported spent in 1951 by 431 cities of 25,000 and over, according to the Bureau of the Census.)

7. The average percentage of the recreation budget spent for leadership was 49 per cent in the thirty-three cities reporting. The percentage for special facilities (pools, stadia, armories, miniature trains, merry-go-rounds, concessions and so on) varied from 0 to 40 per cent, averaging 14 per cent of the total recreation budget in the twenty-four cities reporting.

8. Among the major improvements during the year from current budgets were: a golf course in Winston-Salem; swimming pool and bathhouse in Greensboro; addition of nine holes to the golf course and a bathhouse in Gastonia; a recreation center in New Bern; purchase of land for a park in Lumberton.

Other major improvements, most of them from bond funds, were: community center building and swimming pool in Charlotte; community building in Durham; two swimming pools in Burlington; pools in Kinston, Shelby, Hickory, Statesville, Morganton, and Kings Mountain.

9. The average salary paid to workers in various positions in cities of different populations was:

	25,000 and up	10,000 to 24,999	9,999 to 5,000	All Cities
Superintendent or Director	\$5,419	\$5,093	\$4,361	\$5,080
Division Supervisor	3,401	2,701	2,840	3,018
Community Center Director	2,674	2,175	2,300	2,633
Maintenance Superintendent or Foreman	3,075	2,806	3,026
Secretary and Clerical Staff	2,412	1,747	1,848	2,242

The report also gives specific salaries paid to a variety of workers in each of the cities reported.

Recreation in Cleveland Industries

The research department of Associated Industries of Cleveland asked a representative cross section of member companies for facts concerning their recreation programs in order that the association might be in a position to answer many inquiries received with reference to such programs. Its questions covered such items as activities, cost, supervision, participation and benefits. Replies from twenty-one companies, varying widely in size, were summarized in the organization's newsletter for July 15, 1954. Some of these findings were as follows:

1. Most common features of the companies' recreation programs are bowling, golf, picnics, theater tickets, softball, banquets, Christmas parties, fishing and social dancing, in the order named.

2. Program costs ranged from \$800 annually for a small company to \$55,000 for a large one.

3. The average company cost per employee per year for seven companies with 1,000 workers and over was \$7.71. The average cost for seven companies with 500 to 999 factory workers was \$6.25 and for seven companies with 100 to 499 factory workers, \$8.02 per year. The average company cost per employee per year for the twenty-one companies was \$7.34 and the range, from \$.50 to \$14.29.

4. Only one of the companies reported employing a full-time director of recreation. In the average company a member of the industrial relations or personnel department serves as a part-time director of the recreation program. Employee associations and groups frequently assist in the planning and administration of the program.

5. From 8 per cent to 40 per cent of the total company employees participate in the activities. The highest employee participation (26.1 per cent) occurs in the companies with 1,000 or more employees. Second best participation (24.7 per cent) is in the 500 to 999 group, and the lowest (22.5 per cent) in the smallest employee group. The average for all companies is 24.4 per cent of all workers.

The report states, "While the primary purpose of the company recreation program is to improve employee morale, it actually serves a two-ply purpose: It offers the employee an opportunity for a well-balanced life, and it provides management with employees who are better fitted to do their jobs."

"In an operational sense the company recreation program is a form of maintenance for the human resources of the company. It is an aid to industrial relations and an adjunct to public relations, both of which pay handsome dividends at the community level."

NOTES for the Administrator

Volunteer Services

The value resulting from encouraging citizen participation in civic activities was stressed in two articles appearing in a recent issue of the *National Municipal Review*. One of them, by Dr. George H. Gallup, president of the National Municipal League, emphasized the necessity of developing ways in which more citizens can help with local and state problems. He mentioned the encouraging record resulting from the appointment of citizens' committees in recent years. "An important point to bear in mind is that a great majority of the people in the United States would like to devote some of their time and energy to dealing with governmental problems. In a survey made a few years ago, it was discovered that a substantial majority of persons would be willing to give time each week, without pay, to help solve such local problems as housing, health, crime, relief and the like. As matter of fact, the survey found that the busiest people were the most willing to devote time and effort to local problems."

Mr. Frank C. Moore, former lieutenant-governor and comptroller of New York State, in the same issue, reported that citizen participation in government affairs has been stimulated and encouraged through the committee method. He cited various examples to illustrate the value of such participation and stated, "Citizens who participated were glad and eager to serve again while others enthusiastically offered their help."

Out of his own experience, Mr. Moore suggested several important steps in setting up and operating a committee:

1. Define the problem as precisely as possible.
2. Carefully determine the personnel of the committee, have women as well as men members and persons whose stature would favorably impress the body having power to act upon the committee's recommendations. Give weight to geographical and political distribution. Do not appoint persons who would have to clear their views and vote with an organization. Do not select persons who would stand to profit personally from the committee's action.
3. Get committee meetings under way swiftly and get work done by frequent, long meetings over a short period of time. Have the meetings at an unattractive, business-like and not too comfortable place.
4. Obtain, with maximum accuracy and speed, up-to-the-moment factual information and devise a plan for keeping it up to date as the study progresses.
5. Have experts present all the facts to the committee before anyone is permitted to express his views or get into fixed position. After discussion, peg down points of agreement and segregate for further discussion points of disagreement. Often the facts will show the way toward answers.
6. Never forget your target is solution of the problem—not merely publication of a report. A report should be published, however—clear, concise and correct, easily read and understood, attractively presented and widely distributed. It should be a means to effective action by the legislature, governor and people.

Citizen Participation in Municipal Affairs

Eight methods of encouraging citizen participation in local government were discussed at the Third Municipal Management Institute at the University of Georgia. Mrs. Thomas F. Maxwell, city manager of Columbia, South Carolina, who chaired the group discussion, summarized the

conclusions in an article in the August 1954 issue of *Public Management*.

The group concluded that the chief administrator should give special attention to complaint procedures, public reporting, and public relations training for city employees. Public hearings are of value, especially on controversial questions. The appointment of citizen advisory committees to study specific major problems stimulates both citizens and city officials.

Certain other means of encouraging citizen participation should be used only under special circumstances. Suggestion boxes and information polls, for example, may lead to citizen expectations that cannot be fulfilled. Other devices to be used with caution include neighborhood meetings, public forums, and formal referenda on public questions.

The conclusions reached by the city managers and other municipal officials who participated in the meeting afford suggestions for recreation executives in developing a good public relation program.

A Vending Ordinance

At the request of the recreation and park commission of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, the City-Parish Council has passed a vending ordinance designed to overcome the difficulty resulting from unauthorized persons coming into park areas and selling merchandise. The newly adopted ordinance not only gives exclusive authorization to the commission to administer the sale of merchandise on its properties, but even prohibits the sale of merchandise on the streets passing through park areas, thereby prohibiting persons with street-vending licenses from coming into the parks. During the first year the ordinance was in effect, the commission cleared a net profit of over \$13,000.

Improvement Program

A five-year capital improvement program, in Baton Rouge, calling for expenditures totaling \$2,333,194 in the period 1953-58, has been prepared for the recreation and park commission. The program calls for both the acquisition of lands and for the improvement of existing areas. The immediate concern of the commission, however, is for the development of existing park areas which now total 1,010 acres as compared with only 163 acres in 1945.

Report of a Successful Experiment

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has issued a report of a five-year experiment in assisting teachers to engage in research. The primary interest of the program was in the professor and in his research rather than in the solution of specific problems. It was aimed to encourage faculty members to carry on research and creative activities in fields in which they were interested and competent. "The underlying theory is simple. It is that a teacher actively engaged on a scholarly research or creative project of his own choosing has more than a fair chance of maintaining an intellectual activity which directly and indirectly serves to raise his scholarly self-respect and to make him a more effective teacher." The report indicates in detail that the purpose of the experiment was highly successful.

Even though no funds are available to underwrite a similar program for persons engaged in recreation leadership, the experiment indicates that recreation executives might profitably encourage their workers to engage in appropriate research or creative activities.



Special Christmas Projects

Soapsud Snow

For a whiter, brighter Christmas

When the jingle-bell season rolls around, there's no need to bank on the weather for a white Christmas; you can get "snowed in" with novel and lovely decorations made from glistening drifts of soapsuds!

One of the greatest joys of soapsuds "snow" is that cleaning up when the festivities are over is so simple. This "snow" melts off mirrors and windows at the touch of a wet cloth, and leaves them as bright and shining as the new year. And because this decoration doesn't shed, floors stay neat.

In addition to being inexpensive, trimming with soapsuds allows the children to take an active part in the deco-

rating; soap is easy to use and no harm is done if a few splatters of the frothy mixture go astray—a damp cloth does away with the misplaced suds in a flash.

To make soap snow, use a rotary egg beater or electric mixer to whip up the suds in a pitcher or a deep, narrow bowl. A very minimum of warm water should be added to the soap before beating. Whip until the suds are "dry" and of the consistency of thick cream.

Some of the things that may be done with suds and a paintbrush are the decorating of windows and mirrors with jolly Christmas figures such as snowmen, icicles, candles, reindeer, snowflakes, stars, and many other signs of the season, as well as lettering them with holiday greetings. For greater accuracy of design, supply the children with sharp slivers of soap, so that they, or an older person, may make preliminary sketches on glass surfaces which then can be traced or filled in with soapsuds. When applying soapsuds, allow the first coat to dry, then add one or two additional coats, with gentle touches, to give the design richness and depth. Little cylinders of sparkle-sprinkles may be obtained at dime or variety stores. Shade some of the sparkles over the wet soap drawing for added glitter and color.

When applying the suds to the tree, use a long-handled wooden spoon or wide paintbrush. Work from the top to the bottom of the tree, and from the trunk outward to the branch tips. Let dry, then heap on another coating. If you like, decorate the little wet snow-puffs on the branches with holly berries or sequins which will "dry-in." The soapsuds "drift" enough to look natural on the tree, wreaths, or any other pieces



A Christmas wreath takes on a wintry look with sudsy drifts spooned onto the greens.

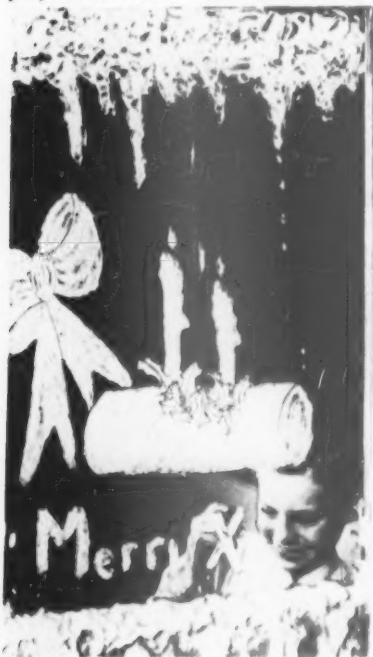
of greenery.

Scouring powder also makes festive trims for mirrors, windows, and glass doors. Use a paste made of the powder and a bit of water. Sketch scenes, Santas, reindeer, and other figures on the glass surfaces. Again, you can make preliminary sketches with a soap sliver. Or you can spread an entire glass surface with the paste and trace the drawings with a fingertip dipped in water. After the holidays, "erase" the drawings with a clean, wet cloth.

Evergreen twigs are often difficult to place gracefully in a vase. But they can be used attractively for the mantelpiece or table centerpiece if twigs are driven deeply and firmly into a cake of soap—something else the youngsters can do with ease. They also can treat candles to prevent smoke or drip—by rolling each candle between their well-soaped palms.

So gather the clan—come Christmas-tide—dip into drifts of soapsuds, and frost your holiday decorations for the snowiest holiday ever.

Applying soapsud snow designs to a window is an easy and enjoyable decorating project for even a lad as small as this.



A teacher's ingenuity brings a unique classroom project to her students.

A Cotton Tree

Beatrice Ford Parker



There are valid reasons for helping children to create and see the beauty in a holiday tree that is other than the usual commercial evergreen. It is very possible that there may come a Christmas when some child in any given group may find himself unable to have a regulation Christmas tree, either because of the locale in which he is situated or because he is without the financial means necessary for the purchase of one.

In a "special education" [opportunity] room, working with children who might very well see such a day, one instructor devised an ingenious way of helping them see that Christmas fun and the things of Christmas need not necessarily cost money. Equipped with a small hatchet, she went one afternoon with her students to search the country

Making a cotton tree to give their classroom a holiday air won the children's interest and stimulated creative abilities.



roads and empty lots for a dead deciduous tree which they might use in their room for the holiday season.

The children found and cut down a small tree of the right proportions and carried it back to the school, where they trimmed and broke off the small twigs and branches and built a stand for it. Students were then asked to bring in cotton, kapok, flannel, or any other material suitable for covering the tree, and the school nurse was able to contribute some cotton. The cotton was cleaned in oatmeal, then stretched along the boughs where it was wrapped around and pressed to the rough texture of the bark.

In this particular instance, ornaments and lights were brought in by several of the children, so that the decorations themselves were commercial. The original plan had been to have students make all the ornaments, using old Christmas cards, metal foil, and colored paper, such as those made in most schoolrooms every holiday season, and to use popcorn dyed in water color paints.

To this cotton Christmas tree there was an all-out school reaction: pupils from all grades came to stand and marvel, and returned to bring their parents. Thus a group of children who do not often have the chance to feel pride in their accomplishment was gratified and made happy by the responses of the other students.

The December P.T.A. meeting was quite aroused by the enthusiasm for the cotton Christmas tree, evinced in reminiscences of parents about the times in the old country school when they scoured the thickets to bring in and decorate dead barberry bushes and bits

of hedges, in lieu of Christmas greens. Exciting questions were asked as plans were made by teachers to try it next year, and as parents offered to help.

The teacher who had started it all was able then to describe to parents her original plan of creating a lovely tree totally without expense. In this particular community many parents present at that meeting had not been looking forward with any degree of certainty, until that moment, of having a Christmas tree for their families. They listened with serious interest while the process of dipping and dyeing was described, and moved to the kitchen to watch with interest as an impromptu demonstration was held.

Not only for the far off someday when a child of today may be rigging such a tree for his own children who might not otherwise have one, but for the adults themselves, who were present in that room, one teacher brought good and happiness. She may feel justly proud.

Today more than ever, in any community and working with any group of students, we may well stress these permanent values and help our children to see and know them. What better way is there than by teaching children to find joy in using, creatively and without undue expense, the materials they have at hand, "in their own back yards"?

Reprinted with permission from *California Parent-Teacher*, December 1953.

Make your Christmas safe and fire free by fireproofing any inflammable decorations or costumes used. If you can't get one of the commercial products on the market, make your own solution of four parts boric acid, nine parts borax, and thirty-two parts water.

Holiday

HANGERS

It's really amazing what you can do decoration-wise with a few old wire coat hangers, some odds and ends, and a little imagination. A few suggestions are given here—but the variety of different decorative pieces that can be worked out is virtually unlimited. Try it for an interesting project with your craft groups or decorating committees. Many of the ideas are so easy that six-year-old youngsters can make them.

Materials needed to make the basic forms, along with the wire coat hangers, are pliers and fine wire, self-stitch tape or string. The hanger wires can be covered with greens, tinsel garlands, gilt or glitter. As a finishing touch they can be trimmed with Christmas tree ornaments, sequins, beads, cellophane drinking straws, foil and other decorative papers and seals, and so on. Pieces of chicken wire, wire screen, or net may also be used to advantage for some of the designs. Cut these materials to fit the hanger-wire pattern and sew or wire them to the frame.

The top four illustrations show some of the forms that can be worked out merely by wiring or tying two or more hangers together.

Try the first one, the diamond shape. Cover the wires with Christmas greens. Tie a big red bow to the center wires, and hang a small ornament from each of the hooks at the sides. Or paste cut-out paper figures in the center instead of the greens and bows.

With the second one you can make a star-child by hanging a round tree ornament in the top of the form for the head, wrapping the rest of the figure with a tinsel garland, hanging a cluster of foil or metal stars from each of the "hands," and adding sequin or glitter features to the ornament for the face. See how simple it is!

The next one, using four hangers, becomes a hanging lantern if you roll a piece of construction paper into a tube

around the center wires for the candle, and add a flame cut from cellophane or foil paper.

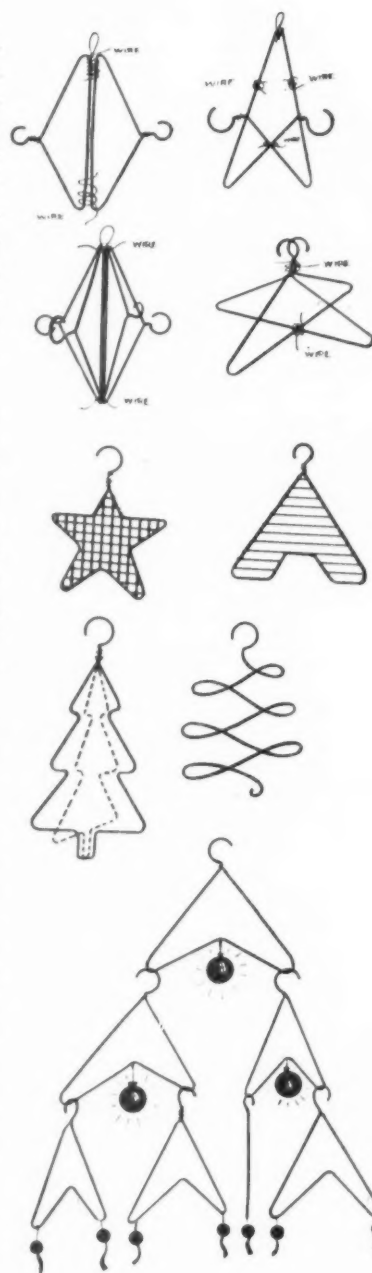
The fourth one makes a turning carrousel when suspended from the ceiling on a long wire or string. Try finishing off the end of each hook with a glittery star and hanging an angel figure from each arm of it. Or use any other Christmas figures—small toys from the five-and-ten, bells that jingle or shiny ornaments that sparkle as the carrousel spins. Three or four hangers can be joined in the same manner, instead of two as illustrated, to make more elaborate carrouseles.

The next four illustrations show forms made by bending the hangers in various ways. For these you need light-weight wire hangers and a long-nose pliers for the bending. The forms shown are a star, a block letter A (any block letters can be worked out), and two trees. Fill in the star form by weaving with strips of colored paper, ribbon, or yarn; or decorate just the frame with greens, yarn, ribbon, or paint.

For a Christmas greeting to hang in the windows or across a wall or stage, shape each letter from one hanger, leaving the hooks at the top for hanging. Trace the outline of the letter on paper, place cellophane straws crosswise over the outline and cut them to fit so they fill in the whole center of the letter. Using a piece of wire slightly longer than the longest piece of straw for a needle, and yarn or gilt thread, string the straw pieces crosswise into the frame. (Or cut the letters from decorative paper or cardboard and clip them to gilded hangers as illustrated in title.

Bend the tree forms as shown, paint them, and hang ornaments on them.

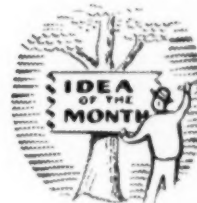
The bottom decoration is a mobile tree made of several hangers which may be bent either as shown or into the form of an arch. Suspend it where it can move freely; trim with ornaments and bells.



Developing Skills

for the Retarded Child

*Many recreation departments are conducting, or planning to conduct activities for mentally retarded groups. The following article is Chapter II of an excellent booklet, *The Backward Child*,* produced by the Information Services Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Canada, and is used by kind permission of that department.*



Among the early things that children learn are sensory impressions—about color, size, shape, and feel of various things. They learn also to develop muscle skills so that they can do and handle things without being clumsy. This is often particularly important for the retarded child. The following materials are helpful in these kinds of learning:

Large, soft ball; brightly colored bean bags; blocks of wood of different sizes and colors; colored wooden beads; colored laces; peg boards and colored pegs; small boxes; heavy string; old spools, preferably painted; plain paper; colored construction paper; old catalogs, magazines and greeting cards; blunt scissors; large crayons; large pencils; paste and paste brush; odds and ends of colored wood and cloth; carbon paper; paper drinking straws; coloring and cut-out books; very simple jig-saw puzzles; bubble pipe; tapestry needles (blunt point, large eyes); sewing cards; paper punch; plasticine or clay; scraps of cloth; lentils, squash or melon seeds; finger painting outfit; weaving mats; simple loom for weaving (an Inkle loom).

THE CHILD CAN LEARN:

1. *Stringing* — large spools on colored shoe lace; colored wooden beads on shoe lace; colored one-inch paper squares with center hole; alternate wooden beads and paper squares; alternate pieces of paper straws and colored paper circles or squares (these are bracelets, necklaces, or decorations); and small beads.
2. *Color*—sorting a pile of small pieces of cloth and placing the pieces on larger

squares of the same color, red, green, yellow, blue; selecting red, green, yellow, and blue socks or beads; naming colors of beads, blocks, and so on; distinctions between colors shown (mount samples side by side, yellow and orange; pink and red, and so on); coloring simple pictures; decorating paper plates with crayons; finger painting.

3. *Form Distinction* — squares, circles, half circles, triangles; matching one form with another ("Show me one like this"); learning the name of the form; selecting the proper form when it is named ("Show me a circle"); naming ("Tell me the name of this"); learning the meaning of *big, little, long, short, up, down* (taught by showing him).

4. *Perception of Objects* — (present only two or three objects at a time) point at each object and name it at the same time, have the child do the same; rearrange the objects and repeat; place the objects in a colored bag, let the child put his hand in the bag, touch the object and name it before bringing it out; hide one of three objects previously placed before the child, he must name which one is gone.

5. *Putting Blocks in a Box.*

6. *Throwing Large Ball or Bean Bags into a Box or to a Person.*

7. *Building with Blocks* — piling; sorting; making a train, house, and so on.

8. *Blowing Bubbles.*

9. *Buttoning a Small Garment Which is Pinned Down.*

10. *Lacing a Shoe.*

11. *Cutting* — learning to handle scissors not following any lines or pattern

(this takes time); following a broad, straight line on paper; following a broad, curved line on paper; cutting out simple objects perhaps previously colored, an apple, ball, and so on, and pictures and figures from magazines and catalogs. (NOTE: Do not give the child scissors unless you can be with him while he is using them. Scissors with short blades and rounded tips are best.)

12. *Pasting*—using one finger to spread paste, a little at a time, wiping fingers before handling picture; using wide paste brush; making paper chain from paper strips pasted together; making a design from colored squares and circles pasted on another larger colored square; simple papier-mâché objects; making interesting scrap books.

13. *Sewing* — begin with shoelace and cardboard sewing card and teach the child to "sew" in and out of the holes; with tapestry needle and wool sew on card as above; with tapestry needle and wool follow an outline; practice running stitch on a guiding line on a piece of cloth; running stitch, but no guiding line; making a seam; making a simple doll's dress; sewing large buttons on bright material; simple embroidery stitches; cross stitch, needlepoint, and so on.

14. *Knitting* — plain knitting, garter stitch; purling; ribbing; casting on, casting off, increasing, decreasing; simple knitted article, scarf, sweater, and so on; knitting on four needles; knitting socks; introduce simple patterns.

15. *Weaving* — paper mats; doll's tam (on Shute loom); belts and so on (on

* Copies of this sixty-page illustrated publication are available from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, Canada, for twenty-five cents each, with a twenty-five per cent discount on orders of one hundred or more.

Inkle loom).

16. *Drawing*—outlining simple drawings and designs with colored lentils, squash or melon seeds, or colored pegs (place drawings, which should be large, flat on the table and have the child overlay the design); making freehand lines, circles, squares, and so on, with a large pencil or crayon; sketching with large strokes simple objects such as a box, apple, ball; people and animals; very simple scenes; illustrating nursery rhymes or children's stories, "Jack-be-Nimble" or *The Three Bears*.

17. *Paper Folding*—making triangles; making hats, baskets, envelopes, pin-wheels, flowers.

18. *Rhythm, Music and Games*—marching to music; clapping softly to music; rocking a doll to music, swaying in rhythm; hopping, to imitate birds; outstretched arms to "fly" like a bird; ringing tiny sleigh bells to music; simple physical exercises; tag, musical chairs, and singing games; humming softly; singing simple two- or four-line children's songs, preferably with actions; occasional "popular" songs; folk dance-

ing, modern dancing. (Some children have been able to learn the names and positions of the notes on the piano by a play-and-story method.)

19. *Modeling*—rolling and pulling clay or plasticine; fashioning simple clay objects such as a ball, pail, eggs, nest; fashioning more difficult objects; using commercial modeling clay that hardens to make attractive jewelry, flowers.

20. *Crafts*—many of the less retarded girls and boys would be interested in attempting some of the many crafts that are so popular today.

Hi Jinks!

Patty Steere

● Take three hundred and fifty high school girls, hours of practice and preparation, a hard-working stage crew, an over-capacity audience, costumes and dances; put them all together and you have the Girls' League Hi Jinx, an annual all-girl affair at Whittier High School, in Whittier, California.

For the past twenty-six years, the high-school girls in this community have combined talents to present this show which has grown from an amateur fun-night to ten student skits featuring over two hundred and fifty girls in complicated chorus line routines.

The first Hi Jinx, held on February 10, 1923, was an informal and hilarious affair consisting of skits which were presented by members of all classes, graduates, and faculty. A carnival was held in the new girls' gymnasium, after which the girls and their mothers adjourned to the auditorium where the performance was presented. The original production proved to be such a success that it continued as a tradition.

Each year a theme is chosen around which to weave the threads of gaiety and nonsense. Some of them have been "Circus," "Through the Looking Glass," "Road to Oz," "Up in the Attic," "Story

Book Ball," and "Aladdin's Lamp."

Countless hours of planning and preparation are required. The Girls' League's first vice-president acts as student director, assuming the duties of organizing and leading the show. She works hand in hand with the faculty director to see that the production runs smoothly. However, all the responsibility does not rest on the shoulders of the student and faculty directors. Fourteen members of the Girls' League Board and scores of students and teachers combine efforts to make the production a success.

One of the keynotes of the Hi Jinx is the rigid competitive basis on which the top groups are selected for the final performance. Tryouts are held each year to determine which groups will receive one of the coveted spots on the program. Even in the early summer months, girls meet to lay the groundwork for the coming show. Groups, ranging from ten to thirty girls, begin selecting music and planning the choreography of their dances. A faculty director is on hand to assist each group. In October the theme is officially announced, and the girls buckle down to continuous rehearsals, costume making, and plans to win the highly-sought first prize.

By November Whittier High School is transformed into a bedlam of dress rehearsals and last-minute committee meetings. Fingernails are reduced to a minimum. Then, the long awaited day arrives; all commotion ceases, and a quiet but tense atmosphere settles over

the campus. Suddenly, lights! action! The Hi Jinx extravaganza is ready to roll!

Although it is primarily a student affair, the faculty, mothers, and alumnae also have a chance to get into the act. As the show comes to a close, the tension increases as audience and participants eagerly await the awarding of the prizes by a panel of five judges. The lucky winners are the recipients of a gaily decorated cake and prize winning ribbons attached to all-day suckers.

According to tradition, admission to the Hi Jinx has always been free. Two years ago this practice was changed and a twenty-five cent charge was instituted. The money thus received, approximately \$500, was then awarded to an outstanding senior girl to be used as a scholarship to the college of her choice.

Since the Hi Jinx is a strictly feminine affair, presented only for the girls and mothers, the boys at Whittier High have one ambition—to see the show. In order to get past the faculty guards stationed at the door, they often resort to intricate tactics. The recent campus hero is the boy who had to buy six tickets and change his disguise several times before he finally managed to see the entire show.

The Hi Jinx has grown by leaps and bounds since it made its original debut on the Whittier High School stage. Faces have changed; new dancing techniques have been introduced; but the Girls' League Hi Jinx remains an event to be anticipated and long-remembered by both performers and audience.

MISS STEERE has served on various Hi Jinx committees. She wrote this article while she was a member of the public relations class at Whittier High School.

How To Do It!

by *Frank A. Staples*

A CHRISTMAS ANGEL

Made from the bottom of a tin can.



Equipment needed ~

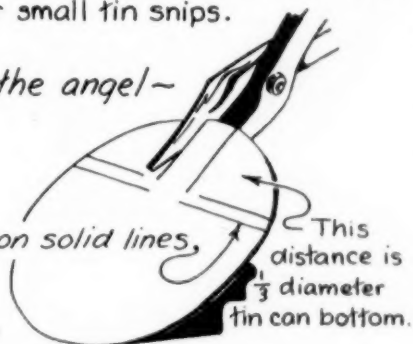
Medium steel wool and a pair of large scissors or small tin snips.

To make the angel ~

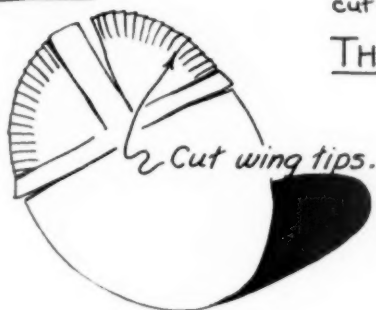
FIRST

Cut on solid lines,

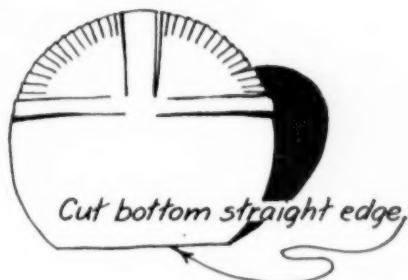
Steel wool
cut edges.



SECOND

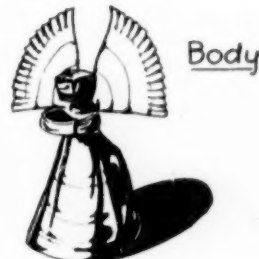
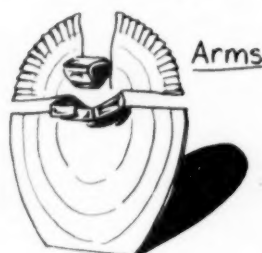
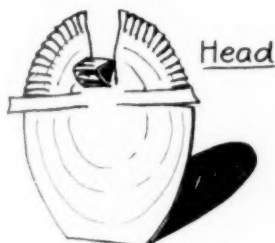


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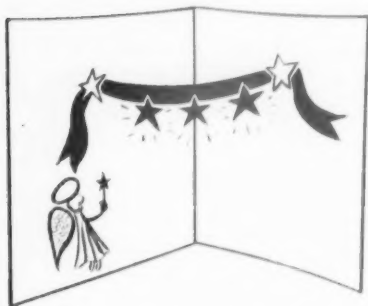
FOURTH

Bend head, arms, body as shown below.

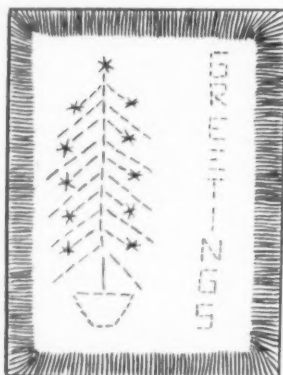


Christmas Cards from scrap materials

Collect many of the everyday scrap materials found in and around the average home or recreation center and you have the makings of these cards. Include bits of felt left over from craft projects or cut from old felt hats; burlap, huck toweling, terry cloth, and other kinds of cloth with interesting texture; small pieces of lace, ribbon, embroidery thread, and yarn; foil paper from food and cigarette packages; paper lace from doilies or candy box trimmings; illustrations and verses cut from magazines and old greeting cards; and anything in the way of sequins, beads, decorative seals, and so on. You'll also need plain stationery, typing or construction paper (or even shelf, wall, or wrapping paper will do) for the basic card form; paste or household cement; scissors; needles; and lettering materials such as pen and ink, crayons, or paint and a fine brush—and you're prepared to concoct some novel Christmas cards.



The string of stars on the inside of this card hangs free from the center-fold when the card is opened, for only the ends of the ribbons are attached to the card. The stars are cut from foil paper and pasted to the ribbon. The tiny angel in the corner is cut from an old card—but she could be hand painted. For variation: use sequin stars dangling from a chain of braided yarn; or cutout letters of a greeting.



Needlework card features a tree design and greetings sewed in basting stitches with metallic yarn on dark colored burlap; ornaments of tiny beads and colored silk floss. Edges of burlap are fringed and the completed piece is pasted on stiff paper. For variation: weave a modernistic tree design on huck toweling with embroidery thread; cross stitch a tree on burlap with yarn.



A standing Christmas tree comes into view when this card is opened. There are two trees cut from two shades of green paper and folded through the center. The darker one is pasted completely on the card, the other one is pasted or sewed only along the fold on top of the first tree. Both trees are decorated with tiny ornaments of foil paper or sequins. For variation: add more trees to the fold; use different color for the trees—such as shades of blue or red.



This Christmas angel has a skirt of silver-foil paper cut in a triangle and pleated; wings are made from a lace paper doily, net, or a piece of real lace; head is cut from construction paper and colored or a head clipped from a colored magazine illustration may be used; halo and stars are cut from gold-foil paper. For variation: try a skirt of filmy net material trimmed with sequin stars.



Santa is gay and colorful in his suit and hat of red felt, green felt mittens, and cotton whiskers and suit trim. His face is pink construction paper with painted eyes. For variation: use a powder puff for his face; or make a glistening Santa by cutting the pieces from oil cloth and using angel hair for his suit trim and whiskers.



A real tree leaf, pressed flat and then glued in place, is the main part of the decorations for this card. Base is cork from a bottlecap lining; ornaments are hollyhock, milkweed, and other small seeds; foil stars add a shiny touch. For variation: a lacy fern leaf for the tree, with little dabs or boric acid crystals or artificial snow glued on for trimming; a flattened sprig of evergreen trimmed with tiny colored beads or seed pearls.

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P E R S O N N E L

SOME PERSONNEL TRENDS AT ST. LOUIS—AN IMPRESSION

Raymond T. Forsberg

From above the din of meetings and gabfests at the recent National Recreation Congress in St. Louis, I seemed to hear strange and exciting overtones—sounds that reminded me of the adolescent boy whose voice is beginning to crack and change. It dawned on me that the recreation movement has developed other characteristics and signposts of adolescence: it is big and awkward, somewhat confused and bewildered, but eager to assume grown-up attitudes and practices.

The “growing-up” sounds I heard were coming from a cross section of delegates who were talking more than ever before:

About the philosophy of “why” rather than the mechanics of “how.”

About long range, master plans instead of daily schedules and isolated activities.

About coordination of community groups instead of competitive relationships.

About enduring organizational structures and tax budgets—not “will-o’-the-wisp” operations based upon personalities or sentimental claims.

About public relations as a whole as opposed to mere publicity.

About quality programs and not so much about “numbers.”

And about sound, business-like administration and supervision rather than amateur, hit-and-miss schemes of promotion and management.

Other delegates were talking about: Sabbatical leave programs to encourage leaders to enrich their professional careers.

District-wide and state-wide training courses for administrators, designed to give support to the fact that a community recreation program cannot progress beyond the philosophy, vision, flexibility, and initiative of the person in charge.

Continuous, year-round in-service training programs scheduled as part of the regular work week with emphasis upon basic sociological and psychological factors, and so on, as well as upon program plans and activity techniques.

Audio-visual materials that have “oomph” for both leadership training and program promotion.

Job descriptions and performance standards that make for much needed objectivity in personnel management.

Recruitment techniques that will tend to encourage better students to enter our college training programs.

Research projects that will help to crystallize where we are and where we are going.

And nation-wide salary studies that can serve as a rallying point to heighten our stature as professional workers.

There were a few rumblings about the “theoretical, ivory tower” approach of college training programs for recreation leadership. Granted, there are shortcomings, but solution to the problems is not reserved for college educators alone. Not to be overlooked is the “art” of assimilating and motivating the newly trained leadership at operating level. Could it be that some of the personnel turnover is the direct result of questionable selection and assignment,

or the frustrations that result from inadequate counsel and guidance? Knowing that leadership begins to blossom with actual experience, are we expecting colleges to perform training functions that are beyond their sphere?

A report of personnel trends observed at St. Louis would not be complete without a big *huzza!* for the significant forward strides of the American Recreation Society. Recreation leaders throughout the country are indebted to the ARS leadership for the magnificent manner in which they are plowing and seeding ground for the future of our profession.

The broad personnel program of the National Recreation Association’s National Advisory Committee on Recruitment, Training, and Placement is convincing evidence of the trend toward greater participation in professional matters on the part of individual leaders. This committee of over one hundred members has a wide geographical coverage with representation from thirty-four states, the District of Columbia, and five national agencies. It planned the major personnel sessions at the congress and has completed important projects. Numerous other projects of importance to the recreation profession are under way or are in the planning stage. The five major subdivisions of the committee will continue to deal with problems and programs of recruitment, training and placement.

I’m confident I wasn’t “just hearing” things at St. Louis. The 1954 Congress, on the surface, was hardly different from other years, but obviously there was a stronger underlying current of resolve, faith, and pride in our role in the community.

RAYMOND T. FORSBERG, *chairman of the National Recreation Association’s Sub-committee on In-Service Training is the superintendent of recreation in the city of Waterloo, Iowa.*

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Jessie Cameron, health education program director, Washington Street Branch, YM-YWCA, Newark, New Jersey; *Barbara Carr*, recreation worker, Gawonus Housing Project, Brooklyn, New York; *Frank H. Dearborn*, superintendent of recreation, Fairport, New York; *Mrs. Barbara Edler*, executive director, Girl Scouts, Council Bluffs, Iowa; *Leigh Emmons*, recreation director, Janet Memorial Children's Home, Elizabeth, New Jersey; *William L. Foley*, superintendent of recreation, Croton-on-Hudson, New York; *Edgar Krattli*, special group worker, Grosse Point Community Club, Grosse Point, Michigan; *Edward McCordle*, director, Youth Center, Dolgeville, New York; *Harry K. Ness*, director, Community Center, Mystic, Connecticut; *Darrell Robinson, Jr.*, area supervisor of recreation, Prince Georges County, Maryland; *Alphonse Tindall*, Soho Community House, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Charles S. Bayer, youth director, Recreation Commission, Peekskill, New York; *Priscilla Brown*, recreation leader, University Hospital, New York City; *Joan Burroughs*, girls' worker, Dixwell House, New Haven, Connecticut; *Thomas R. Carlson*, superintendent of recreation, Middletown, Ohio; *Charles T. Garter*, recreation worker, Irvington House, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York.

Berenice Feinstein, arts and crafts instructor, Brooklyn War Memorial Center, New York City; *Donald Forman*, group worker, Police Athletic League, New York City; *Roy Gunderson*, superintendent of recreation, Puyallup, Washington; *Ruth L. Klein*, recreation director, Hollywood Beach Hotel, Hollywood-by-Sea, Florida; *Jesse M. Lamm*, recreation leader, Goldwater Hospital, New York City; *Esther Mizell*, assistant director, U. S. O. Club, Trenton, New Jersey; *Betty Ann Myers*, girls' worker, Progressive Recreation & Social Services Association, Scranton, Pennsylvania; *Eugene H. Pautz*, physical director, Youth Foundation, Kenosha, Wisconsin; *Mary E. Sawyer*, recreation leader, Girls' Club, Waterbury, Connecticut; *Jean Scheidel*, recreation specialist, recreation department, Pasadena, California; *Chandler Sharp*, director youth center, Salvation Army, Syracuse, New York; *Ann Smutny*, recreation leader, Cumberland Hospital, Brooklyn, New York; *Paul Urek*, director, pilot project, recreation department, Kansas City, Missouri.

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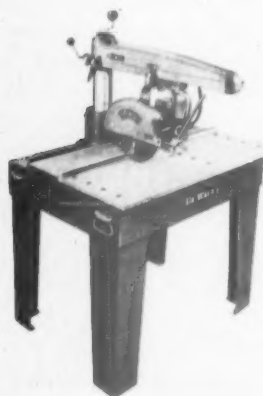
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MARKET NEWS

◆ A new model radial-arm, multi-purpose woodworking machine, designated the GW1, has been included in the De Walt line of power-shop equipment.



Completely re-designed and modernized to include the latest engineering developments, the GW1 offers many distinct advantages not previously available in this type machinery. New features include a motor provided with a voltage-change-switch to enable it to be operated on either 115 or 230 volt, single-phase current; a longer radial arm and wider worktable, providing greater cutting capacity and easier handling of materials; multi-color "Plexstone" finish, red plastic control handles for safe, efficient locating and adjusting of moving parts; a safety-lock switch which functions on the ignition key principle and allows immobilization of the machine; and built-in carrying handles for easy portability. A copy of the attractive new "Power Shop Catalog" is available upon request from De Walt, Inc., Dept. R-10, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

◆ Five new educational kits are being distributed by Central Scientific Company, Chicago, under an agreement with Industrial America, Inc., coordinators of the hobby kit program.

Each of the kits is prepared by a leading industrial firm in collaboration with the Museum of Science and Industry and Encyclopaedia Britannica. The kits and their producers are: Electronics Kit made by RCA; Optical Kit produced by the American Optical Society; Rock

Detective Kit manufactured by the Gemological Institute of America; Weather Kit put together by the Taylor Instrument Companies; and the Medical Training Kit, which enables youngsters to analyze the functioning of the human body, by Bauer and Black.

Youngsters can learn the hows and whys of each science by building their own scientific instruments from materials contained in the kits. Each kit is also equipped with a comprehensive instruction booklet, prepared under the direction of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, explaining and illustrating in detail the fundamentals of the science for which the kit was prepared and giving step-by-step directions for the numerous experiments that can be performed. For further information and descriptive literature write to Central Scientific Company, 1700 Irving Park Road, Chicago.

◆ The nursery set will spend many joyous hours on the Wonder Horse Deluxe.



a junior equestrian's delight, with its unique spring action which provides all the excitement of trotting, galloping, and jumping motions in response to its rider. It measures thirty-two inches high and thirty-six inches long, is sturdily constructed and mounted on a hardwood base, and is finished in true palomino color. Toy Guidance Council selected this as "an outstanding example of American toy production for 1954." Manufactured by Wonder Products Co., Collierville, Tennessee.

◆ A compact, space-saving, rubber-stamp outfit, which eliminates the neces-

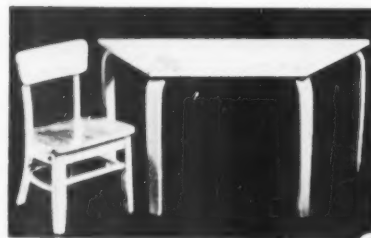
sity for having a separate complete stamp for each use, is now available. The Edmar "Injector" Stamp consists of one handle which can be used with any of the slides, which are available



in more than two thousand stock rubber-stamp phrases. The handle, assorted slides, ink, and stamp pad are all kept neatly and take up minimum space in one handy kit. For information, Edmar Division, Bankers & Merchants, Inc., Dept. ED, 3229 North Sheffield Avenue, Chicago 13, Illinois.

◆ A new contribution in table design is featured in the Romper Table #2335 which makes possible a different grouping of combinations for various activities. The table surface has been specially developed for uniform low-light reflectivity, and is stainproof and immune to acids, ink, and paint. It can be cleaned with a damp cloth and never needs painting or refinishing.

Shown with the table is National's Chair #2610, constructed of electronically laminated bent plywood. It has been thoroughly tested under the most rigorous institutional use and carries a five-year guarantee. Manufactured by



the National School Furniture Company, a division of the National Store Fixture Company, Inc., Odenton, Maryland.

Listening and Viewing

Films

● City dwellers in America have the power to determine whether their own communities must endure run-down, blighted neighborhoods or will renew or rebuild them, according to a new documentary film recently released by Encyclopaedia Britannica Films and the Twentieth Century Fund. The film is based on a special study made for the Fund by Miles L. Colean, nationally known authority on housing and city planning. The 24-minute, 16mm. film will be distributed by Encyclopaedia Britannica Films, 202 East 44th Street, New York 17.

● A new film illustrating some techniques of occupational, recreational, and industrial therapy, *Working and Playing to Health* (35 minutes, 16mm., black and white, sound), was made at the Manteno State Hospital, Manteno, Illinois, sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Works. Write International Film Bureau, Inc., 57 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 4, or your local mental health authority.

● A valuable addition to film material on senior citizens is a short documentary of an annual Hobby Show for Older Persons (10 minutes, 16mm., sound, color). Write Helen Warner, Welfare and Health Council, 44 East 23rd Street, New York 10.

● Newest additions to the Films of the Nations library include shorts on creative activities in Swedish schools, arts and handicrafts in Denmark and Portugal, as well as recreation in the state of Michigan. For further information and 1955 catalog write Films of the Nations Distributors, Inc., 62 West 45th Street, New York 36.

● Association Films offers free films on a variety of subjects including travel, sport, homemaking, health and safety, do-it-yourself, science, and industry. For new catalog write branch libraries of Association Films at Broad and Elm Streets, Ridgefield, New Jersey; 79 East Adams Street, Chicago; 1103 Jackson Street, Dallas, Texas; and 351 Turk Street, San Francisco.

● Three five-minute films encourage viewers to participate in creative activity in three media: crayon, torn paper, and household cement. They were pro-

duced and directed by Frank Bach of the Art Education Department, University of Wisconsin, and Reino Randall, associate professor of art, Central Washington College of Education, Ellensburg, Washington. They are suitable for classroom art work, amateur art classes, hobby groups, and teacher training. Write Bailey Films, Inc., 6509 De Longpre Avenue, Hollywood 28, California.

● A booklet of available wildlife films, *The Conservation Film Library*, has been released by the National Wildlife Federation, Service Division, 20 Spruce Street, Boston.

● Many new materials and ideas for the holidays, as well as for general year-round use have been added to the Society of Visual Education film library, which includes an adventure-with-art materials series, prepared at the Laboratory School, University of Chicago, under the direction of Jessie Todd. For new free booklet write Society for Visual Education, 1345 West Diversey Parkway, Chicago 14.

● Five films on various phases of recreational boating (13½ minutes, 16mm., color) are available free from the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17.

Uses of Tape Recorder

Over one hundred and fifty uses for a tape recorder are outlined in a new fourteen-page booklet, *Words and Music*, showing how this instrument can be used in business, church, school and community activities. For free copy write Webster Electric Co., 1900 Clark Street, Racine, Wisconsin.

Recreation Department TV Program

A fifteen minute TV program, inaugurated by the Boise City Recreation Department and directed by Bob Clarke, assistant director of the department, is called "From the Slopes of Bogus Basin." During the winter months it features events taking place in the local ski area, the ski school, ski races, jumping meets, adult ski classes and winter activities of the department. Time is made available through station KBOL-TV in Boise.

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Periodicals

CHILDREN—A Professional Journal on Services for Children and on Child Life. Vol. #3. U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Pp. 120. \$.25 per copy; annual subscription \$1.25. \$.50 additional for foreign mailing.

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Solving Common Swimming Pool Problems, *Carl O. Bauer*.
Pool Commodities Design and Equipment, *D. H. Dewindt*.
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The Contribution of Swimming to Physical Fitness, *Thomas K. Cureton, Ph. D.*

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Summer Activities Issue

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How To Make Plant Containers for Your Park.

PARKS AND RECREATION, June 1954
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I Wonder Why

Gustavus T. Kirby, Coward-McCann, Inc., 210 Madison Avenue, New York. Pp. 130. \$3.00.*

"People have been my life and my joy and my endless wonder," so writes Gustavus T. Kirby, who was treasurer of the National Recreation Association from 1903-1946 and thereafter has been treasurer emeritus. Few men wait until they are eighty years of age to write their memoirs, but this Mr. Kirby has done. People are the keynote of the book and the author has hobnobbed with great and small the world around.

Continuous interest in athletics and sports has been expressed in his activity in the New York City Public Schools Athletic League, the Amateur Athletic Union, and the American Olympic Association, all of which he served as president. He also has served as chairman of the New York City Recreation Commission and of the Westchester County Planning Commission.

In his book Mr. Kirby gives personal experiences in the World Congress for Leisure Time and Recreation, so auspiciously begun in Los Angeles in 1932. Mr. Kirby served as presiding officer at Hamburg in 1936 and at Rome in 1939, and, sadly, at the final meeting in London in 1939.

Perhaps what readers will remember best is Gus Kirby's summary of a long and rich life: "Life is to be lived as fully as possible, all of of its nectar to be sipped and tasted with appreciation and wonder; all its sounds and sights, its music and art, its winds and its perfumes; its men and its women." And his final judgment: "Only through sports can there ever be a true democracy in this world."

Sports Injuries

Christopher Woodard, Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited, 103 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto 5. Pp. 128. \$2.50.

Sports Injuries is a book that trainers and handlers of athletes will want on their book shelves. With the increase of

Little League Baseball and Midget Football, the book will be of interest to recreation leaders.

The author describes the treatment of injuries common to athletes, covering those that need "rough" or active treatment, those that need rest treatment, and he carefully points out those that should be handled by a doctor. Suggested treatment is given for all body injuries, from head to foot, common to athletes. Use of ear plugs by swimmers and divers, the author claims, actually increases the risk of damage to the ear drums.—*Clarence Breuer*, Field Representative, National Recreation Association.

Thirty Contras From New England

Dudley T. Briggs, Burlington, Massachusetts. Pp. 77. \$1.50.

Mr. Briggs has done much more than give the reader the directions for doing thirty-four contra dances. He has given one the feel of contra dancing and the fun and sociability which is part of it.

Without being in the least pedagogic he has emphasized the importance of style, precise timing and working with the music which is the charm of this kind of dancing. He has also stressed the responsibility of the caller for giving the dancers a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.

This is in pleasant contrast to much of the material on dancing which seems to be a mad rush to see if you can get where you are supposed to be before the next step begins.

I particularly liked the way the author brought out the point that contras may be done with men only or women only. Scout troops, gymnasium classes and recreation groups where members consist solely of one sex can use and enjoy these without the men having to take the part of girls and vice versa.

For the boys nine to thirteen years of age who like to dance—but not with girls—these contra dances fill a need for enjoyable neuro-muscular activity with successful accomplishment coming

rather quickly.

The eight chapters cover: The Nature of Contra Dancing; Steps and Figures; Style in Contra Dancing; Music for Contra Dancing; Contra Formations and Progressions; Calling Contras; Teaching Contras; and Contras for All Men and All Women Dancers.

These are so well explained and carefully written that any teacher or recreation leader would have no difficulty in working them out.

The author has listed records for each dance as well as orchestra music.

It is a valuable addition to the dance library of any recreation worker.—*Helen M. Dauncey*, Katherine F. Barker Memorial Secretary for Women and Girls, National Recreation Association.

Swimming Pools for Schools

Donald W. Neilson and John E. Nixon. Educational Administration Monograph No. 3. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. Pp. 43. \$2.00.

This booklet, a monograph in the series on educational administration issued by Stanford University's School of Education, is a timely and useful publication. Interest in the construction of swimming pools is wide-spread throughout the nation, but it is particularly strong in California where, according to a report issued by the State Department of Education, there are more than 19,000 indoor and outdoor pools.

The early sections of the volume deal with the values of swimming and the organization of a program of swimming instruction. The design and construction of pools, however, receive major consideration. Among the specific topics discussed are indoor versus outdoor pools and pool shapes, contours and dimensions. Various aspects of construction, such as ladders, inlets and outlets, gutters and filtering, disinfecting and heating systems are dealt with concisely but effectively. Specific recommendations are made with respect to many features. The photographs and sketches accompanying the text add reader interest and illustrate the principles and methods presented in the booklet.

The authors emphasize the importance of swimming as an activity in the school program and stress the swimming pool as an essential feature of the modern plant. The information in the booklet is equally useful, however, to municipal authorities and community committees considering the construction of an indoor or an outdoor pool. This publication which contains a selective bibliography is a valuable addition to swimming pool literature.

* See footnote on page 608.

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February 7-10

David Burney, Director, Recreation Department, Box 758

Griffin, Georgia
February 14-17

George S. Gentry, Jr., Recreation Director

Milstead, Georgia
February 28-March 3

James F. Snider, Director of Recreation, Callaway Mills

MILDRED SCANLON
Social Recreation

State of Oklahoma
December 6-16

George E. Hull, Assistant State 4-H Club Leader, Stillwater

Winston-Salem, North Carolina
January 31-February 3

Lloyd B. Hathaway, Superintendent of Recreation

State of Florida
February 21-March 24

Dr. Robert L. Fairing, General Extension Division of Florida,
University of Florida, Gainesville

GRACE WALKER
Creative Recreation

St. Louis, Missouri
January 10-13

John A. Turner, Recreation Superintendent, Municipal Courts
Building

Ames, Iowa
January 24-27

George Wilkinson, Extension Associate in Recreation, Iowa State
College of Agriculture

St. Louis, Missouri
February 7-10

John A. Turner, Recreation Superintendent, Municipal Courts
Building

FRANK A. STAPLES
Arts and Crafts

Toledo, Ohio
January 10-20

Eugene Shensfield, Executive Secretary, Toledo Council of Social
Agencies, 441 Huron Street

Alexandria, Virginia
January 31-February 3

Eugene L. Barnwell, Director of Recreation

Sumter, South Carolina
February 7-10

Harry R. Bryan, City Recreation Director

Greensboro, North Carolina
February 14-17

Oka T. Hester, Director of Recreation

Attendance at training courses conducted by National Recreation Association leaders is usually open to all who wish to attend. For details as to location of the institute, contents of course, registration procedure, and the like, communicate with the sponsor of the course as listed above.

RECREATION

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the boy and the Star

He is old enough now to know that the ornament on the tree is more than a star . . . to understand the deeper meaning of Christmastime.

Now he knows that it is love that has been shining on the tree year after year, the love that has wrapped and held him . . . that has given him food and warmth and laughter and the promise of joy to come.

Life's great reward is the privilege of giving security to those we love.

And, think: When you make *your* home secure you are also helping make America secure. For the strength of America grows as the number of its secure homes increases.



Saving for security is easy—on the Payroll Savings Plan for investing in United States Savings Bonds.

This is all you do. Go to your company's pay office, choose the amount you want to save—a few dollars a payday, or as much as you wish. That money will be set aside for you before you even draw your pay. And automatically invested in United States Series "E" Savings Bonds which are turned over to you.

If you can save only \$3.75 a week on the Plan, in 9 years and 8 months you will have \$2,137.39.

U.S. Series "E" Savings Bonds earn interest at an average of 3% per year, compounded semiannually, when held to maturity! They can go on earning interest for as long as 19 years and 8 months if you wish.

If you want interest as current income ask your bank about 3% Series "H" Bonds which pay interest semiannually by Treasury check.



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